FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned Iraq to stop violating the airspace of other Gulf states and he criticized the "indifference" of such states to the Iraqi violations, IRNA reported. Commenting on the possibility that other states in the region cooperated with Iraq in its recent raid on Larak Island, Musavi expressed hope that such reports are false, but he said Iran will investigate the matter to determine which country might have done "such a silly act." He denied that Iran has agreed to give unexploded Soviet-made Iraqi bombs to the United States and also rejected "rumors" that Iran has put its U.S.-manufactured weapons at the disposal of any other country. In another development, Tehran radio announced that the International Red Cross (IRC) has agreed to resume its activities in Iran, citing an IRC statement that "formally requests" Iran to "overlook past differences."

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn commented on Iran's "special and dirty cooperation" with "U.S. organs and the Zionist entity" in a speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserting that Iraq was "expecting this to take place before now." Iraq has been calling Ayatollah Khomeyni a "charlatan" since 1981, he pointed out, and even before his movement took power in Iran, the Iraqis expected that its "first evil deed would be against Iraq."

The Greek paper *Dhimokratikos Logos* claimed in a 2 December report cited by AFP that the United States made at least 20 arms deliveries to Iran by air and that several other consignments were made by ship from Western Europe. The paper said it will publish "in the next few days" a full transcript of the tape recordings on which its reports are based.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed "shock" over U.S. allegations that Israel transferred funds to the Nicaraguan contras and termed such reports an "anti-Israel plot," Jerusalem radio noted. IDF radio pointed out that checks with "all elements involved" reconfirm that Israel had no prior knowledge of the money's final destination. Sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post* suggested that Saudi Arabia facilitated the funds transfer in connection with its AWACS deal. In a related development, "reliable sources" told the *Post* that the Iranian opposition faction led by Abolhasan Bani-Sadr gave the Beirut paper *Al-Shira'* details of the U.S. arms deal in an attempt to discredit both President Reagan and Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Regarding Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position on the peace process, Shamir's office stated that he would agree to an "international forum," but only after an agreement has been reached in direct negotiations with other parties, *Ma'Ariv* reported. The paper viewed this statement as a denial that Shamir's position on the issue has changed. Shamir also confirmed that Syria has chemical weapons and called for U.S. assistance in preparing the IDF to "prevent any surprises," *Davar reported.*

Syria

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' referred to the U.S.-Iran affair in a press interview cited by Damascus radio, stating that as Iran is an important state in the region, it is only natural that the United States will seek to establish relations with it using "all moral as well immoral means" to achieve this. Speaking to the UAE's *Al-Khalij*, he added that all talk about an Israeli role in the deal is an attempt to deceive Arabs and Muslims and stop them from establishing good relations with Iran by casting doubts on the latter's slogans about the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine. On Arab affairs, Al-Shar' said President Hafiz al-Asad has informed the Arab League that Syria supports the convening of a regular Arab summit and that it will make every possible effort to ensure its success.

Lebanon

Reporting on the continuing battles between Amal and Palestinian gunmen, Radio Monte Carlo said that over 30 people were killed and 60 were wounded in clashes at Maghdushah 1 December. Renewed fighting prevented a Lebanese Red Cross attempt to evacuate casualties from the Al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre, while around 40 tanks bombarded the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in Beirut. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that 420 people have been killed or wounded in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah since the fighting started. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said the Palestinians repulsed fresh attacks on Shatila 1 December and claimed that Syrian artillery bombarded the camp.

In Saudi Arabia, SPA reported a cease-fire appeal by King Fahd, who deplored the continued attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon and warned that Israel is the only benefactor from the conflict.

In a separate development, IDF radio announced that four South Lebanon Army soldiers were killed and seven were injured in a 2 December clash with "terrorists" on the northern edge of Israel's security zone.

DRA

At least 25 DRA troops and Soviet advisers were killed 29 November when Afghan guerrillas shot down a transport plane some 30 miles east of Kabul, according to a rebel news agency cited by AFP.

An article in the *Kabul New Times* cited by BAKHTAR charged that some of the U.S. weapons sent to Iran were intended for Afghan rebels and accused Iran of serving "world imperialism."

FBIS

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Tunisia's Sfar Addresses Ministers Council

LD012330 Kuwait KUNA in English 1604 GMT 1 Dec 86

[By Jassem Matar]

[Text] Tunis, Dec 1 (KUNA) — Addressing fifth session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council which began here today, Tunisian presidential representative drew attention to the Israeli aggressive anti-Arab plots aimed at deforming the Arab image and damaging our relations with countries backing the Arab just causes.

Premier Rachid Sfar, deputizing for President Habib Bourguiba, voiced Tunisia's optimism that the Arabs will pass this difficult test successfully.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi referred to the Arab strategy for combatting drugs as an exceptionally important project, noting that inter-Arab and Arab-international cooperation in this regard is still below the needed level.

Expressing regret and surprise over the recent Iranian-Israeli-American developments in relations, Klibi said Israel and its supporters do not want to bring this war to an end before complete collapse of the two parties.

Kuwait interior minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad thanked the Tunisian Government and people for their efforts to render the gathering a success.

Shaykh Nawwaf called for developing Arab security capabilities in face of the steadily increasing forms of crimes and in protection of internal fronts in the Arab states.

Following Shaykh Nawwaf's address, the session adjourned and will resume later this evening to discuss the set up agenda.

PFLP's George Habash Addresses Rally in Algiers

JN011904 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] In the presence of PFLP Secretary General Comrade George Habash and Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and Fatah Central Committee member, as well as in the presence of senior officials of the Algerian FLN Party, a massive popular rally was held at the Ibn Khaldun Hall in Algiers the day before yesterday on the international day of solidarity with our Palestinian people. The rally was called by the Algerian FLN Party.

Addressing the rally, attended by numerous representatives of Arab and world liberation movements in Algeria, were a number of Algerian officials. They stressed Algeria's principled, firm stands supporting our Palestinian people's just struggle to regain their inalienable national rights, headed hy their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The brother Algerians also emphasized the importance of restoring Palestinian national unity and of confronting the current phase of our Palestinian people's struggle in light of the intensifying imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

During the rally, Brother Abu al-'Izz, PLO representative in Algeria, addressed the audience. He said: I take the opportunity of the presence of Brother Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and of Comrade George Habash, PFLP secretary general, and ask Brother Abu Jihad's permission that the Palestinian revolution's speech be one speech, delivered by Comrade Dr George Habash.

After this was approved by warm applause on the part of the audience, Comrade Habash delivered the Palestinian revolution's speech. He began the speech by talking about national unity and the need to enhance the unity of the Palestinian ranks in confronting the conspiracies to which our people are being skbjected. Habash said enhancing Palestinian national unity and adhering to the revolution's rifle in the current phase are among the most important tasks to be carried out so our people can confront all forms of conspiracy against them, both in the occupied land and in the Lebanese arena.

Dr Habash asserted that the Palestinian rifle is the Palestinian homeland and identity. He stressed that Palestinians will not abandon or relinquish this rifle. He pointed out that one of the objectives of the conspiracy against our people in Lebanon now is an attempt to remove the Palestinian rifle. Hence, they are carrying out ugly massacres against our kinfolk in the camps.

In conclusion, Dr Habash said: We support every good effort to cease fire and direct all resources against the Zionist enemy. But we will not surrender or yield if the hostile forces continue their conspiracy against our people. We will defend our people and rifle, as well as our camps, in the face of these conspiratorial forces. I say enough of slaughtering our people in Shatila and enough of besieging Al-Rashidiyah camp.

Appeals to Soviet Officials

JN011546 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT
1 Dec 86

[Text] A PFLP delegation led by George Habash met with the USSR ambassador in Algiers today. Talks focused on the current armed conflict between Amal and the Palestinians in Lebanon.

It was learned that PFLP Secretary General George Habash asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a message to CPSU Central Committee members urging them to exert the necessary efforts to stop the ongoing battles between the Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters in Beirut and southern Lebanon.

Radio Interviews Fatah's Al-Wazir on Camps War

LD012240 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Khalil al-Wazir, identified by his nomme de guerre Abu Jihad, by unidentified correspondent in Algiers; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Answering a question on the conditions in Lebanon in light of the continuing attacks against our people's camps by Birri's gangs of despair, Brother Abu Jihad said:

[Abu Jihad] The Palestinian revolution has been subjected to a continuing attack on its presence in Lebanon. I first want to recall the objectives of the Israeli enemy when it carried out its campaign in the June 1982 war. In that war, the enemy defined its main task — as stated in Israeli cabinet documents — as the destruction of the PLO, both militarily and politically, and secondly, the expulsion of the PLO from southern Lebanon, Beirut and the whole of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

What is the Al-Rashidiyah Camp? It is a small camp disarmed by the Israeli Army. Its population lives without any arms. But they began to prepare themselves to defend themselves in the face of the Israeli attacks, as the Israeli gunboats used to open fire against it. Then we saw the aggression explode from the Amal movement against this camp. And the attacks continued. The camp has been beseiged for 70 days. They even prevent food from being brought in. Epidemics have broken out inside this camp and all the humanitarian bodies, including the Red Cross, have sought permission to bring medicine to the camp to combat the epidemics, but to no avail. We saw them prevent the entry of supplies, of all food supplies to those people, and the attacks continue. During this ongoing operation to beseige Al-Rashidiyah Camp, conditions have become tense all over Lebanon. All the appeals, all the mediation efforts through Damascus, through the nationalist movement, through all sides, have been to no avail. And they are continuing their attacks and shelling day and night, and seeking to invade the camp.

What happened after this? The aggression also exploded against the Burj al-Barajinah Camp in Beirut and against the Shatila camp. And now the operations against Shatila have been continuing for over 19 days. And then the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp was assaulted from the Maghdushah region. There has been shelling. The Maghdushah region is high up and with a machine gun one can dominate every street of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The attacks have continued and they have prevented movement in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and begun to hit buildings made of light bricks. One bullet goes through two walls because the huts of the Palestinian refugees there were poorly built. We see the aggression and hence, the Palestinian forces were forced to confront this position which used to dominate them and were able expel the Amal forces from that position.

As for Shatila, we see the fierce attack continuing day and night. The brothers in Shatila told us that last night at least 1,800 shells fell on the camp, which is a small one — it is not more than 1 km by 1 km. In one night 1,800 heavy shells landed on it, destroying most of its homes. This shelling has been going on day and night for the last few days. [passage omitted]

The basic political question is why did these attacks happen? Do the Palestinians want to compete with Amal's influence and authority, the dominating authority in that region? The answer is the Palestinian does not want a thing. The Palestinian is not competing with anyone for influence in Lebanon. We did not say to the Syrian brothers we share your influence. You dominate Lebanon, you are as free as you wish, you and our brothers in Lebanon. But we say the Palestinian only wants to have the right to live, he who was expelled from the occupied land because of the Zionist aggression in 1948. More than half a million Palestinians have been living in Lebanon since 1948, at these camps. How much they have lived under oppression and torture, and how many Palestinians have been killed at the cellars of the Deuxieme Bureau? The Palestinians have been tortured in every refugee camp. Every youth went to prison and was tortured. This is how the Palestinians used to live. And when they felt their dignity, their rifle, they defended themselves and prevented this oppression and torture by the Lebanese Deuxieme Bureau and the forces and apparatuses of the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

Despite all the decisions and agreements that stipulate freedom of movement for the Palestinians, they are deprived and live in a ghetto. And if some girls go out to do their shopping or to buy some supplies, we see that they are arrested. And then we see the youths being chased and expelled. This is happening now in the south and in our camps. This is the long story which is being repeated [word indistinct].

We say we do not oppose any agreement for a cease-fire that might be introduced, and we send our appeal to the whole Arab nation, to anyone in this world who has a conscience. Why is this aggression continuing? Voices should be raised loudly to end the aggression.

The aggression perpetrated by Amal is not its decision only. We honestlly and sincerely state this is the decision of our brothers in Damascus. The decision is in their hands. They are the ones who must stop this aggression, otherwise why do they encourage these aggressions against the Palestinian camps? This is our question and our call and the call of our Arab nation and that of the officials of this nation and that of anybody who has a conscience in this nation. They must speak up and tell our brothers in Syria: You are responsible and you must stop this hysterical, savage and barbarous campaign against the Palestinians. Enough slaughter, enough humiliation, and enough aggression, and enough destruction and burning of houses. [passage indistinct]

Regrettably, the Arab artillery is also participating and shelling the refugee camps. We see that Israeli aircraft are bombing as well. What is this coordination? Why are the Israeli vessels in the sea shelling our camps and besieging the shores and preventing any Palestinian coming to support his brothers? This is the question we ask our Arab nation and our brothers in Algeria so they can know the reality of what is taking place. We must put an end with all determination to this aggression against our relatives and (?people).

[Correspondent] About the situation in occupied Palestine,in light of the savage Israeli aggression against our relatives and their possessions and sanctities, brother Abu Jihad said:

[Abu Jihad] The conspiracy has always been like this against the Palestinian people. When it wants to impact upon the morale of the Palestinian revolution and upon its will and resolution, the Israeli enemy strikes against our relatives in the occupied territories in order to weaken us. [passage omitted]

When will our Arab nation come together again? When will solidarity return to its ranks? When will we see it adopting a united attitude, able to direct its outcry and express its will in confronting this aggression? This is the bewildering question which goes on and on. The Palestinians, like our Arab nation with its masses in all positions, are awaiting an answer.

[Correspondent] Concerning the dialogue among the groups of the Palestinian revolution to consolidate their unity, brother Abu Jihad said:

[Abu Jihad] I want to make clear to all our brothers and people everywhere, the unity of the Palestinian people exists, it is embodied in reality, it is a truth, and there is no Palestinian anywhere who can say no to the PLO. Every Palestinian, in every position in the occupied land, in Lebanon, and in every place where Palestinians exist, says yes to the PLO, the symbol of its struggle and the total sum and the fruit of the sacrifices made by more than 100,000 martyrs from this people, in addition to the tens of thousands of wounded men and prisoners. [passage omitted]

The second truth is that, when we talk about unity, we mean the unity of the groups playing their role in the Palestinian arena. We are struggling continuously through the continuation of contacts with all the sides to achieve this unity, after all that has happened, following the events of Tripoli, and after what the PLO and the Palestinian revolution were exposed to in 1983. The efforts are continuing and all the Palestinian parties have responded and declared their responses to the initiative of brother President Chadli Bendjedid to meet the Palestinians in Algeria. Five organizations have announced their readiness for this meeting and will soon meet in Algeria with the popular organizations. The five main organizations are Fatah, the Democratic Front, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestine Communist Party, in addition to the Palestinian popular organizations that bring together workers, students, women, lawyers, doctors, engineers, jurists, and other popular Palestinian organizations, in addition to the presidency of the Palestine National Council, and some of the independent nationalist Palestinian personalities from the various regions. All these are to meet in the coming weeks in Algeria to study issues concerning the preparations to convene the 17th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. There remains the Salvation Front which announced its reservations when the Algerian initiative was announced and said they did not wish to accept it. We regret to say that a Syrian official stood up and said to them:

Damascus is not a hotel, and whoever wants to accept the Algerian initiative should go on a one-way ticket. This raised sword on the necks of our brothers is the cause of the obstruction and the postponement and the hesitation of those brothers' attendance. Yet we say in Fatah, in the PLO, and in all the organizations, that the door is open to all our brothers to take part. We confirm the need to turn the page of the past,despite all the painful and burning lines. We say we should turn a new page and therefore welcome everyone who wants to join the dialogue which is being preapred for the coming session of the PNC. [passage omitted]

PNSF Spokesman Urges Lebanese-PLO Agreement

JN011404 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, spokesman for the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], today called for abandoning the current maneuvers to sign temporary truce agreements and for discussing a radical political agreement regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations: guaranteeing the Palestinians' rights and national role: allowing the Palestinians to maintain their weapons in the camps: bolstering Lebanese-Palestinian national relations: and supporting the Lebanese national plan to confront the Zionist-isolationist scheme. He called on the concerned parties to abandon the policy of prevarication and stop wagering on delusions, which only lead to further destruction of the national and pan-Arab plan in the Lebanese arena.

He said all the agreements signed with the Amal movement were doomed to failure because they failed to recognize the Palestinian presence and refused to agree to a formula that would organize relations, reassure the Palestinians, and guarantee their future presence. He stressed that the Palestinian revolution greatly cares about the Lebanese people's national interests and is ready to support the national Lebanese struggle against the Zionization and partition schemes threatening Lebanon. In the meantime, he added, the Palestinian revolution calls on all the Lebanese nationalists to recognize the Paelstinian presence, which is today threatened with annihilation and displacement. If no radical political solution is reached, the ongoing war will destroy the national interests of both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, he concluded.

Palestinian Meeting in Algiers 'Postponed'

JN301457 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] According to informed Palestinian sources in Algiers, an expanded Palestinian meeting scheduled for the end of this month in Algiers has been postponed due to the serious incidents taking place in Lebanon. The meeting will now be held by the middle of next month. The meeting, which will prepare for a PNC session, will bring together representatives of Fatah, the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and other independent Palestinian figures, the sources added.

Meanwhile, Fatah and PFLP sources say George Habash, PFLP secretary general, who conferred with Algerian President Chadli

Bendjedid and Assistant Secretary General of the FLN Mohammed Cherif Messaadia yesterday on the dangers threatening the Palestinian cause and the PLO, and ways to restore PLO unity, will not be participating in the expanded Palestinian meeting scheduled to be held in Algiers.

In another development, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy secretary general of the DFLP, praised yesterday's meeting in Algiers between George Habash and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member. 'Abd Rabbuh gave a speech at the Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus last night to mark the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Fatah's Khalaf Voices Solidarity With UAE

JN011729 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Nov 86 pp 1, 26

[From Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, has voiced the PLO's solidarity with the UAE and all Arabs. This came in answer to *Al-Bayan's* question on the Palestinian stand toward the air raid against the Abu al-Bukush oilfield. Khalaf said aggressions against all Arab countries are the same.

Answering a question by *Al-Bayan* on the issue of Palestinian unity and the date for convening a PNC session, Khalaf said this depends on the Palestinian parties that signed the Prague declaration, adding that the meetings between PFLP Secretary General George Habash and Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in Prague and Moscow are within this context.

However, Khalaf clearly noted that, in his view, the important thing now is the current aggreement among the Palestinian factions in confronting the plots in the occupied territory and Lebanon. He said discussions among the Palestinians will continue until they conclude with holding the PNC in Algiers, following a meeting among the signatories to the Prague declaration.

OAPEC Faces Bankruptcy; Tunisia May Withdraw

LD021215 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 2 Dec 86

[By Shamel Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 2 (KUNA) — The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) will probably face two difficult decisions in its tomorrow's ministerial meeting here.

Senior oil Arab sources disclosed in a statement to KUNA Tuesday that Tunisia was apparently still insisting on its decision to withdraw from the organization marking the first such precedence in history of the 11-member organization.

Tunisia, which joined OAPEC in 1982, had officially asked for withdrawal from the organization during its first biannual meeting this year in May, which was also held here.

Kuwait and other Gulf countries have succeeded in convincing Tunisia to postpone and reconsider its decision until the second biannual meeting slated for December 3rd.

The [word indistinct] noted that Tunis, due to absence of petroleum projects on its territory, did not feel the importance of joining the organization and elaborated that it did not pay its annual quota since 1983 which accumulated as a result to KD 1.2 million, around four million dollars.

Tunis, with a current 120,000 barrels per day in production, had leaked reports that it was withdrawing over economic reasons and that it had similarly withdrawn from other regional and international organizations to reduce payments of hard currency.

On the other hand, the sources said that the Arab oil ministers will probably support a new slash in the organization's 1987 budget of around 25 percent bringing it down to KD 2.03 million.

The Kuwait-based organization is already facing an acute financial crisis that threatens its bankruptcy due to non-payment of dues by certain members that reached four million Kuwaiti dinars or around 13.6 million dollars.

Iraq and Syria have not paid their annual instalments for several years while Qatar and Algeria were in arears over this year's [word indistinct].

OAPEC Secretary General Dr. 'Ali 'Atiqa had told KUNA last August that if such a situation persists the organization will stop functioning.

The Arab oil ministers or their representatives are expected to discuss these two issues along with OAPEC's upcoming five year plan and perparations for the fourth Arab energy conference scheduled for 1988 in Baghdad.

[Word indistinct] of OAPEC, the Arab oil training institute and the judiciary panel will be discussed as well.

OAPEC, founded in 1968, groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Syria.

BAHRAIN

Minister Delivers Amir Message to UAE President

JN012142 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Manama, 1 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama from Abu Dhabi this evening, after a short visit to the UAE during which he conveyed a message from the Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifahto UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with current developments in the region, particularly after the recent attack on oil installations in the Abu al-Bukush oilfield. The message falls within the framework of the policy of continuous cooperation and consultation between the two countries.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah also conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the Bahraini amir, government, and people to Shaykh Zayid on the UAE's 15th national day, which is celebrated tomorrow.

KUWAIT

Amir's Attackers Get Life Sentence, Death Penalty

LD290948 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Nov 29 (KUNA) — The State Security Court Saturday passed the capital punishment against 'Ala Muhammad Rida Muhammad al-Atrash over charges of attacking motorcade of H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on May 25 last year, life sentence on Wadi' 'Abd al-Husayn Muhammad Hassan al-Atrash and declared the three other defendents not guilty. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Meets Egyptian Minister Dr 'Ubayd

LD011130 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0834 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Dec (KUNA) — Dr 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd, the Egyptian minister of state for cabinet affairs, met here today with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, in the presence of Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, and members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying Dr 'Ubayd and head of the Egyptian-Interests Caretaker Office in Kuwait.

'Ubayd Meets Foreign Minster

LD011438 Kuwait KUNA in English 1229 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 1 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received today Egyptian Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd, who is currently visiting the country.

The two ministers reviewed developments in the Arab world and examined topics on the agenda of the forthcoming Islamic summit January 26, as well as efforts by both countries to guarantee the success of this mammoth gathering.

Later Shaykh Sabah received the ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Kuwait Thomas Strakos for an exchange on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He as well received the ambassador of the UAE Shaykh Sultan ibn 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, who invited him to attend the reception that is held on occasion of the UAE national day.

Minister Holds Talks With Soviet Ambassador

LD011447 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1316 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Dec (KUNA) — Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Nikolayevich Zverev. Al-'Usaymi told the journalists afterwards he reviewed the good relations between the USSR and Kuwait with the Soviet ambassador.

He added that during the meeting, the Soviet ambassador acquainted him with the results of last week's visit to India by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and his talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The ambassador, he said, handed him also a copy of the recent Soviet statement on the USSR's attitude toward SALT II and a copy of the Soviet-Indian joint appeal concerning a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, signed by Soviet leader Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the former's visit to New Delhi.

Ambassador Zverev affirmed that the joint appeal, signed by the leadership of both countries in the socialist camp and the Nonaligned Movement, calls for completely liquidating nuclear weapons, abandoning violence in relations among countries, and drawing up a new charter for international relations.

The ambassador added that the minister expressed to him Kuwait's great interest in the statement and its positive and good evaluation of the appeal. The ambassador affirmed he will provide the Foreign Ministry with any new details he might receive about Gorbachev's visit to India.

Asked about the USSR's attitude toward the Iraq-Iran war, Ambassador Zverev said "it was fully known to all the world." He said that during the past years, Moscow had exerted persistent efforts through its contacts with the two sides to end the war, which he described as "a senseless war claiming the lives of many innocent people."

He pointed out that the continuation of the war creates a state of instability in the Gulf region and his country feels it is essential to put an end to it as soon as possible with no consideration for any principles of victor and vanquished, but for the safeguarding of the national interests and dignity of both countries." [quotation mark as received]

The ambassador affirmed ending this regrettable war will remove all problems in the region, including the problem of navigation in the Arab Gulf and the endangerment of navigational freedom there.

With regard to the attitude of the USSR toward the secret arms deal to Iran, the ambassador said he cannot add anything to the stand taken by Arab and world public opinion in regard to this matter. He added that the answer is clear, as expressed by world public opinion in a clear and well-defined position. The best proof of this lies in the attitude taken by the U.S. Congress itself toward the deal: The Congress could not ignore the issue or keep quiet about its effect.

In conclusion, the Soviet ambassador expressed his feelings of cordiality and appreciation toward Kuwait on both the official and popular levels, saying that the great welcome and good will he was shown since his arrival will help him in carrying out his mission as ambassador. He also said he will do all he can to further the good relations between the two countries and entrench and bolster them in all fields.

Minister al-'Usaymi Meets With Iranian Charge

LD012005 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA — Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi asserted on Monday that the regime occupying Palestine is in great panic of the Islamic revolution because it has been dealt severe blows by it.

Al-'Usaymi made the remarks in a meeting in Kuwait with Iranian charge d'affaires to that country Muhammad Reza Baqiri.

At the meeting, Baqiri said that as far as the Islamic government is concerned regional governments would be best advised to steer clear of the dictates of the Iraqi government in their relations with Iran.

The Iranian charge d'affaires reiterated that it would be in the supreme interest of regional countries to discontinue their assistance to the Iraqi regime.

OMAN

Omani-FRG Joint Committee Holds Final Session

JN011600 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Yusuf al-Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in his office this morning with members of the Omani-FRG joint committee, now in session in Muscat. On the German side, the meeting was attended by Dr (Lawrence Schumeros), deputy under secretary at the FRG Ministry of Economy, and members of the German delegation. On the Omani side, the meeting was attended by Nizar ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali, ambassador of Oman to the FRG; 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Dhahab, head of the minister's office department; and Muhammad ibn Yusuf al-Zurafi, first secretary and deputy head of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting reviewed progress made by the committee in bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially in economic, agricultural, health, social, and vocational training areas. The minister of state for foreign affairs praised the positive cooperation shown by the German side during the committee meetings, stressing the close relations between the two friendly countries in various spheres.

The Omani-FRG joint committee held its final session at noon today at the conference hall of the Foreign Ministry with Haytham ibn Tariq Al Sa'id, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, heading the Omani delegation and Dr (Lawrence Schumeros), deputy under secretary at the FRG Ministry of Economy, heading the German team.

Ways to boost bilateral cooperation in economic, technical, health, agricultural, and vocational training areas were discussed during the meeting. Economic and financial cooperation between Oman and the FRG was also discussed, in light of developments in the international oil market. They also reviewed cooperation in joint projects between Oman and the FRG and the important role of the private sector in this regard. They also explored cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, vocational training, and health areas to raise efficiency in these sectors using German expertise. The two sides discussed the possibility of sending Omani cadres to the FRG for vocational training.

Sultan Qabus Congratulates PDRY, Benin Leaders

JN011638 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 30 Nov 86 p 1

[Text] Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, may God preserve him, has sent cables of congratulations to Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY's Supreme People's Council Presidium, and to Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou on their countries' national days, wishing them continued health, happiness, and progress and development for their respective peoples.

Sultan Cables UAE President

JN011640 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

["Text" of cable from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan — date not given]

[Text] Your Highness Brother Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, Abu Dhabi. We take the opportunity of the 15th anniversary of the UAE national day to send Your Highness our heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes of good health and the UAE fraternal people further progress and prosperity. With my best regards.

[Signed] Your Brother Qabus ibn Sa'id

PDRY

Al-'Attas Addresses Nation on Independence Day

EA011835 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1612 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Speech by Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, at the 'Abdallah Ba Dhib Institute in Aden on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of independence — live]

[Text] Lady Comrades, Comrades, Friends: Masses of our great Yemeni people. Apparent to us this day is the significance of the 19th anniversary of national independence, the fruit of the people's struggle and the struggle of the armed people which started with the 14 October revolution in 1963, under the leadership of the National Front. The revolution, which was first sparked off on the summits of the mountains of Radfan and [word indistinct], was the national extension of the revolution of 26 September 1962, in the northern part of the homeland. Then the aims of the revolutionary Yemenis united in the course of the struggle our people engaged in, against all the conspiracies and acts of aggression and reaction aimed at the 26 September revolution -- to bring about the extermination of the republican regime in the northern part of the homeland -- and at the struggle of our people in the southern part against British colonialism and its agent props.

We are pleased, on this glorious occasion, to congratulate our great Yemeni masses, on behalf of the Central Committee of our YSP and its political bureau, the Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Council of Ministers and to confirm our determination to achieve the goals of the glorious 14 October revolution, which comprise persevering to preserve national independence; entrenching the pillars of the authority of the Yemeni toilers; reinforcing its democratic and popular content; and pressing on along the path of the YSP to fulfill the tasks of the phase of national democratic revolution within its socialist parameters.

At this time so dear to our hearts, we would like to commemorate the martyrs of the revolution, who spilled their pure blood upon the soil of this precious homeland in defense of the principles and achievements of the revolution to ensure that its flag remains ever aloft [word indistinct]. The memory of our glorious martyrs will live forever in our minds and hearts and their glorious deeds, sacrifices, heroism and exemplary lives will remain as our incentive to escalate the struggle to protect the gains of the revolution within its broad horizons. It is also important for us to warmly greet the guests of our party and the guests of our country. We welcome the chairmen and delegations of the Arab committees for African and Asian Solidarity who have joined us in this celebration, and we emphasize our keenness to support the Arab solidarity movement in achieving its noble goals.

On 30 November 1967, the glorious 14 October revolution set out toward a new stage characterized by wide horizons, rich expertise, great lessons, progressive achievements and popular revolutionary traditions.

We still remember how colonialism and its agents, backed by revisionist and opportunist forces, laid their bets, right from the beginning, on the failure of the revolution. They said it was no more than an armed tribal rising that could be contained by the huge military machine of the occupying British Army. The colonialists tried to fulfill those assumptions by launching air raids and organizing military campaigns against the positions of the People's Liberation Army, in a bid to eliminate the revolution and stop it from spreading.

But the revolution remained steadfast by virtue of the firmness and awareness of its historic leaders and its stubborn fighters and by virtue of the fact that the poor masses rallied to the revolution and its leading political organization. The revolution went ahead, achieving victory after victory in the towns and countryside. Its popular base became more powerful and extended. It was able to occupy a prominent place in the Arab national and international liberation movement since it was a national democratic revolution that embodied the interests and aspirations of the toiling class.

Our national independence did not come about through bargaining and half-measures. It did not come about through highhandedness, remote from the movement of the toiling masses, or as a result of other defeatist methods that opportunist and revisionist political forces were propagating, with the support of the colonialists and their agents.

On the contrary, it was achieved through long struggle and tedious sufferings, and through immense sacrifices made by the Yemeni revolutionaries and the masses of the people during the People's Liberation War in the cities and the countrysides. This was a war in which the toilers of our people added brilliant pages to the record of our country's recent history since defeat after defeat was inflicted upon the occupying British forces, which could not withstand the blows of the heroes of our People's Liberation Army in the countryside and the cells of freedom fighters in the cities. They were driven out forever. Subsequently, the victorious revolutionary star rose in our skies, the star which radiated hope for all Arab revolutionaries on the eve of 5 June 1967. Since that day, that star has continued to shine. Its brightness is increasing and expanding in our new life. Our devoted revolutionary star has not faded despite the winds and storms of the malicious and spiteful conspiracies that aimed to restore the [word indistinct] night.

Dear comrades, even though we are today experiencing the joys of celebrating the 19th anniversary of national independence and the beginning of the 20th year since that event, we feel sadness and pain over the absence of a large number of prominent, historic leaders of the revolution who were in the vanguard of the makers of this national independence. But, dear friends, they are still among us, living in our minds and consciences. They are eternal by virtue of the great achievements in the making, securing and developing of our nation, in which they performed a leading role.

Our party, peolple and revolution incurred huge losses at the hands of those who carried out the 13 January bloody conspiracy, planned and led by the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his gang when they set out on the morning of that black day to organize the huge and bloody massacres. A large number of the revolution's historic leaders, fighters in the People's Liberation War, and the party's civilian and military cadres fell victim in these massacres.

They included first and foremost the glorious martyrs, 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail, the immortal thinker [applause] and founder of our party; 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, the bold leader of our People's Liberation Army [applause], the hero of the battles for freedom and independence and the builder of our Armed Forces; Salih Muslih Qasim [applause], the daring Yemeni hero and the unique warrior and fighter for the freedom, progress and unity of our people; and 'Ali Shayi Hadi, the wielder of the rifle in battle, whose brave voice expressed the interests, aspirations and desires of the Yemeni toilers and other martyrs.

The conspirators thought they could extinguish the flame of the revolution and divert it from its socialist course by imposing horrific physicial sacrifices upon its historic leaders and experienced fighters. But they forgot that Fattah, Antar, Muslih and Shayi were national symbols of our people's struggle and were an integral part of the cause of the Yemeni toilers. The Yemeni toilers, headed everywhere by the fighters of our vanguard party, the YSP, fought an unprecedentedly heroic battle, which today occupies brilliant pages in the record of our recent national history. They brought down the conspiracy and raised high the banner of Fattah, Antar, Muslih and Shayi [applause], the banner of the Yemeni working class and its successors. They inflicted permanent disgrace on the traitors and conspirators whose hands are stained with the blood of the fighters of our party and people. Today, we have the right to be proud of our success in foiling the dreadful, bloody conspiracy.

We also have the right to boast of the wide successes achieved in eliminating the consequences of the conspiracy and rebuilding the things destroyed by the conspirators. This was achieved through the citizens' participation in the repair of damage and reconstruction in the capital, Aden, and through appropriate steps and measures taken by the party and state leadership to consolidate the national unity of the people. The public amnesty embodies the party and state leadership's wish to heal the wounds and restore confidence.

In accordance with this decision, the great majority of the detainees involved in events arising out of the 13 January bloody conspiracy were released. Many of those who fled, who were misled by the leaders of the conspiracy, or were thrown into concentration camps to stop them from returning home and living in peace and stability with their relatives and families, returned. These people were used as cheap tools to achieve the goals and ambitions of the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his bloody gang, who attempted to seize power and absolute authority. Despite the black propaganda being put about by the conspirators, with the support and backing of media hostile to our regime and party, the true reality is being revealed day after day. Our party and progressive system is growing in power and firmness and its roots are becoming deeper. The success of the elections to the Supreme People's Council and local councils was received by the masses of our people with unmatched enthusiasm. They reaffirmed the depth of mass support for our party and progressive system and proved the bankruptcy of the conspirators, who these days are maneuvering in different ways, manufacturing sick lies. In doing so, they expose themselves as a gang of outcasts detached from reality and powerless to do anything except attempt to reverse the course of history.

They are not skilled in anything other than political fickleness and hypocrisy and trade in the lives of innocents suffering the pains of vagrancy and wretchedness, while the conspirators lead a luxurious and shameless life at the expense of the pain and suffering of the misled and the deceived people, and at the expense of the families of martyrs, those killed and handicapped and the orphans, widows, widowers and dependents. The primary responsibility for the sufferings and pains of these people is borne by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his gang. We shall continue to look after the misled and martyrs' families in the way we look after the pupils of our eyes [applause]. And if the conspirators have encountered the bitterness of ignominious defeat and are faced with permanent disgrace, they have been driven by their insane criminal tendencies, today, to try once again to revert to massacre and bloody terrorism with their new attempts to send a member of gangs of saboteurs and terrorists, equipped with arms and explosives aimed at killing women, children, old people, youths and men from the sons of our people.

An end has been put to those gangs of saboteurs and terrorists, arrested by virtue of the alertness of our security services, which are vigilant in guarding the security of the nation and the gains of the revolution. They will meet their just punishment so they will be a lesson to all those with sick souls who are seduced into damaging the peace and security of the nation and citizens. Now, such terrorist attempts are not new to our party, people and revolution. We experienced them in the course of our opposition to the class enemy since our independence. We emerged and will always emerge powerful and victorious and would like strongly to warn all those being urged by the conspirators to try to carry out sabotage and terrorist activities.

We warn them of the black fate that awaits them and which was the fate of those who preceded them in treachery, conspiracy and terrorism. That is because the enemies of the revolution are not interested in the lives of such misled people and deceived ones who are being urged to die at a cheap price. They are also not interested in the lives of their own families and children because to them they are only tools for achieving their sick desire, and who have already paid for it.

There are a lot of lessons that must be applied. We will strike with an iron fist all those who dare to act against the sovereignty, security, and stability of the nation and the people [applause]. Accordingly, the gangs of saboteurs and terrorists arrested will face the verdict of the constitutional court before which they will appear, just like those before them who planned and executed the 13 January bloody conspiracy and what accrued from it — bloody massacre, killing, and sabotage against the party, nation and people.

At the same time, we hail the cooperation between the citizens and the security services and the cooperation given by many of those who continue to return to their homeland. We express our satisfaction at the increasing number of returnees. We stress our firm determination to provide them with all forms of care until they are able to participate in the building of the homeland. In this regard, it is appropriate to appeal once again to all the misguided brothers, inclduing those who were decieved and imprisoned in camps by the conspirators, to join those who preceded them in returning under the terms of the general amnesty.

Lady comrades, comrades and friends, with the arrival of the 20th year of national independence, the ongoing revolutionary process in our country, under the leadership of the YSP, undergoes an important development because this is now the phase of national democratic revolution. The sum total of the achievements and broad revolutionary successes realized in our country since national independence have contributed to strengthening the pillars of the toilers' powers, deepening its democratic and popular content, and achieving a number of profound revolutionary and progressive changes for the benefit of the broadest toiling masses of the people. This, in turn, has reinforced the pillars of our national independence, anchored our progressive system, and reinforced the method of socialist orientation in our country.

It is beyond dispute, comrades, that all these achievements and victories were achieved by virtue of the struggle our party guided through the different phases of its rise and development, in the fight against colonialism and the regime of its agent sultans; against the legacy of severe backwardness that we inherited from the moribund era; against all forms of conspiracy and sabotage on the part of internal and external reactionary forces, supported by their imperialist masters. The decisive role in achieveing all these achievements, successes and victories is attributable to the correct revolutionary method of our YSP, which expresses the fundamental class interests of the toiling masses, and to the cohesion of these masses around the party and their wide participation in implementing its policies and defending the revolution and the progressive system. We doi not exaggerate when we say the unity [word indistinct] of the party and the people, being strengthened day by day, constitutes a firm guarantee for continuing the ongoing revolutionary process in our country, and achieving its great goals on the road toward the socialist system that all the toilers in our good land aspire to.

Our party has always accorded the utmost importance to the participation of the popular masses in the management of society's affairs and the development of the national economy. The documents and literature of our party stress that the continued development of mass participation in the political and economic life of society is considered an indispensable condition for deepening the democratic and popular content of national power and a guarantee that it embodies the toilers' interests.

Our party has also paid great attention to the application of principles and practical and democratic methods for the management of the economic and social operations that governmental services are undertaking in the course of implementing party policy and involving the popular masses in their implementation. At the same time, the workers, who exercise control over the activity of governmental services in different economic fields, have played an important role in involving toilers in the implementation of party policy. They have done this by ensuring that methods of implementation are appropriate and exercising various forms of accountability, education, criticism and self-criticism to anchor the pillars of the toilers power and protect the progressive achievements realized by the blood and sweat of the popular masses.

The election of the Supreme People's Council and the local People's Councils constituted a new starting point in awakening the toilers' struggle and increasing their contribution to the management of the state and society's affairs.

On the basis of experience and the practical results achieved in this field, it can be said that the wise and responsible work of state servoces has been a school in which the toilers of the country can learn ways and means of economic management and control, including improvement of the work of government services, by fighting bureaucratic inclinations, exposing various symptoms of economic and ideological destruction, and confronting all attempts to cheat laws and systems.

The experience of the Supreme People's Council and the local People's Councils is one of the important assets available to the YSP in its leadership of the state, in addition to the party and mass activity undertaken by party organizations in the governorates and at all places of work and production. It is imperative for us, during the coming years, to exert maximum efforts to boost the operational methods of state corporations and the governmental apparatus and to step up their activity, so as to continue developing the economic infrastructure, implementing economic, social and cultural plans and programs, unifying control, abiding by the system and reinforcing a sense of national responsibility for the vital interests of the [word indistinct]

Lady comrades, comrades, the independence of the southern part of the homeland was a progressive step forward in the struggle against the division that British colonialism and the (?imams) regime and the sultan's [word indistinct]. After the southern part of the homeland became independent, (?more than) 22 sultanates, emirates and areas were united under a national and central authority as a step towards reunification of the Yemeni homeland, its soil, and its people. And despite the extent of internal and external conspiracies, and the difficulties that surrounded the struggle of the nationalist Yemenis for Yemeni unity, the last 19 years have seen the emergence of unitary forms that have contributed to bonds of unity between the leaderships of the two parts; to strengthening the atmosphere of peace in the Yemeni arena; and to the implementation of several measures to eliminate the various obstacles to unity: for example, the signing of the Cairo, Tripoli, Kuwait, Sana'a, and Aden agreements; the establishment of unity committees and certain joint institutions and companies; and the provision of wide facilities in the fields of commercial exchange and the movement of the citizens between the two parts. Moreover, coordination between the leaderships of the two parts on Arab and international issues started to expand and develop.

The establishment of the Higher Yemeni Council and the Joint Ministerial Committee did much to improve and reinforce modes of unitary action. All these successes embodied the collective will of the two parts' leaderships and expressed the higher interests of the people and homeland. It is clear that the (?policy) method of the southern part of the homeland, regarding the issue of unity, arose from the application of our party's documents and resolutions and the work of its leading councils. We will firmly continue implementing the policy of our party as outlined in its documents, literature and resolutions, since we regard this as an irrevocable national option of which there can be no revocation. We affirm our [word indistinct] resolve to continue exerting the utmost efforts for unity with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland with the aim of reinforcing and encouraging established forms of unity; increasing their activity; continuing with moves to expand economic integration and commercial exchange; setting up pillars of security and stability in the entire Yemeni arena; and coordinating development efforts the political stands between the leaderships of the two parts toward restoring the unity of the Yemeni homeland by peaceful and democratic means. We are confident of our ability, through cooperation and coordination with our brothers in the northern homeland, to advance the progress of peaceful efforts for unity in a manner that meets aspirations of our Yemeni people in progess and unity.

Comrades, the Arab area is now witnessing a feverish escalation of conspiratorial and aggressive moves by imperialist and Zionist circles to shake the stability of the Arab arena, to deny our Arab peoples their right, and to restore colonial hegemony over them, so obstructing their progress and prosperity. The aggressive and expansionist policy of the allied imperialist and Zionist forces has taken a dangerous direction, represented by armed acts of aggression against Libya, the escalation of aggressive threats against Syria, the intensification of conspiracies against the Palestinian revolution, and attempts by the U.S. Administration to encourage arms and finance the forces of reaction with the aim of reviving aggressive activity against Democratic Yemen. To this should be added attempts to revive reactionary activity hostile to Algeria. In the perilous circumstances now surrounding the Arab arena, there is now, more than any time in the past, a need to reinforce the unity of the Arab national liberation movement, as represented by various regimes and nationalist and progressive factions; to mass the capabilities of all the Arab countries; to confront the imperialist and Zionist onslaught; and to adopt a unified Arab policy equal to the challenges that confront our Arab peoples and nation.

As we celebrate our country's independence day, which coincides with the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, we warmly great our Palestinian people and their revolution, and all the peoples who celebrate today out of solidarity with their just case. We stress our resolve to continue with efforts to contribute shaping Palestinian national unity, within the framework of the PLO and on the basis of its program hostile to imperialist and Zionism. We will strive to ensure that the Palestinian arena avoids the dangers of fragmentation and division by which the enemies of the Palestinian people seek to eliminate the Palestinian revolution and to impose defeatist solutions aimed at denying the Palestinian people their rights; above all their right to return to their homeland and their right to self-determination and an independent national state.

Our country will also continue to support all efforts to unify the Arab ranks on the basis of Arab solidarity hostile to imperialism and Zionism, including the efforts to convene an Arab summit conference. To this end, we will spare no effort to strengthening the ties of fraternal cooperation with all the sisterly Arab countries, particularly neighboring countries, on the basis of mutual respect, constructive cooperation and noninterference in internal affairs, and in a manner that contributes to reinforcing security and stability in our region and serves the joint interests of our peoples.

We would like, in this regard, to express our concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. This war has reached a dangerous level, which could do more damage to the interests of the two warring countries and to the security and stability of our area. Our country has opposed this war since it broke out. We have called and are still calling for it to stop and for the differences between the two warring countries to be settled by peaceful means.

At the same time, we strongly condemn the act of aggression that the oil installations in the (abi al-Bukush) field in the fraternal state of the United Arab Emirates were subjected to. This was an extension of the aggressive onslaught to which fraternal Kuwait has already been subjected. It confirms the serious dangers likely to result from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. We stress our brotherly solidarity with the fraternal Arab Emirates and with any Arab state whose territory and sovereignty are exposed to foreign aggression.

Also, we would like to express our concern regarding the armed acts of aggression to which the Palestinian camps in Lebanon are being subjected, on the part of the Amal militia. We would like to appeal to the warring parties to institute a cease-fire and lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian camps and residents of neighboring villages; to stop all restrictions that prevent them from being provided with food and medical supplies; and to direct the guns on the Zionist enemy occupying Lebanese territory, who plans to continue implementing his aggressive and expansionist policies against our Arab peoples and against our just Arab causes.

Lady comrades, comrades: In any important stage of our revolution and in any success we achieve in the course of the revolution's development, we cannot forget the honest internationalist support that the Soviet Union is providing to our country. The firm militant relations between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union continue to constitute a source of strength for the struggle of our party and people on the path of socialist orientation. The issue of purifying and strengthening these relations will remain the cornerstone of the foreign policy of our party and country.

We are pleased, on this glorious occasion, to send warm greetings to the party, people and government of the Soviet Union, stressing our loyalty to the ideals and principles of Yemeni-Soviet friendship and our determination that it should continue to flourish. We also want to thank the Soviet Union for its support for our just Arab causes and to reiterate our principled support for its peaceful policies, initiatives and proposals aimed at maintaining world peace, halting the arms race and supporting nuclear disarmament. [words indistinct] the dangers of total extinction.

At the same time, we greet all the friendly socialist countries, who are firmly strengthening their struggle for social progress to build the new [word indistinct]. Lady comrades, comrades: Once again [words indistinct] the occasion dear to our hearts, to struggle further along the path of the party, the path of the people, the path of defending the Yemeni revolution and implementing the 5-Year Plan and realizing Yemeni unity. Thank you.

Official Meets Iranian Envoy; Expresses Support

LD012041 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA — Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun stressed Monday that his country has stood beside the Islamic revolution since its victory. He added that the PDRY'S stance is unchangeable.

In a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Aden Hasan AminiaN, the PDRY deputy premier mentioned the resistance of the Iranian and Yemenese nations for staging successful revolutions. He called for joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Iranian ambassador in reply said that the determining power of independent nations is a crucial factor for defeating the enemies' plots. He cited the Islamic revolution of Iran as a worthy example.

AminiaN also congratulated the Yemenese official on the occasion of that country's national day (November 13).

Views were also exchanged on mutual relations between the two countries.

Oil Exploration Agreement Signed With USSR

EA012227 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] A protocol for the third phase of oil and gas exploration in Shabwah area for the years 1987 to 1990 has been signed today between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals building. The protocol entails geophysical and geological survey operations and digging oil wells to ascertain the oil and gas resources of the area.

Also, an agreement has been signed between Democratic yemen and the Soviet Union to finance exploration, according to which the soviet Union will provide our country with a loan of R130 million.

The protocol and agreement were signed by Brother Salih Abu Bakr Ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of energy and minerals, on the Yemeni side. On the Soviet side it was signed by Comrade Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, member of the Central Committee and minister of geology in the Soviet Union.

Following the signing, brother Salih Abu Bakr Ibn Husaynun made a speech in which he pointed out that the signing of the protocol and the agreement is regarded as an important step toward strengthening and developing the principled and strategic relations between our country and the Soviet Union. He appreciated the honest internationalist assistance that the Soviet Union continues to provide to our country in various fields of our national economy.

Comrade Yevgeniy delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception that the delegation enjoyed during the visit. He praised the development and continuing growth of the principled relations linking the two friendly parties and countries, stressing the Soviet Union's support for our country in various fields and the need to make efforts to implement the programs on schedule.

The signing ceremony was attended by Brothers Mahmud Sa'id Madhi, member of the Central Committee and minister of finance; Faraj Ibn Ghanim, minister of planning; and Comrade Albert Archkov, candidate-member of the CPSU Central Committee and ambassador of the Soviet Union to Aden.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Urges End to Attacks on Palestinians

LD012307 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2125 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Dammam, 1 Dec (SPA) — Following the escalation of the continued bloody incidents against Palestinian camps in Lebanon, King Fahd this evening addressed an appeal to the warring forces in Lebanese territories around Palestinian refugee camps urging them to lay down arms, stop the bloodshed, and for the Arab Muslim hand to refrain from spilling the blood of his Arab Muslim brother.

He said the continuation of armed attacks on the sons of the Palestinian people in Lebanon has made a deep wound in the heart of the Arab and Islamic nation together. There is no doubt that the only benefactor from this bloody conflict is the Israeli enemy that is lying in wait for the two conflicting parties and for brotherly Lebanon.

King Fahd urged, in his appeal to all Lebanese patriotic forces and the authorities, to make efforts immediately to stop clashes, protect the camps, and disarm the aggressors. He also appealed to all brotherly Arab countries to do their utmost in this respect in order to safeguard the sons of the Palestinian people, defend their cause, and achieve their just demands.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Praises Visit

LD011851 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1618 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 1 Dec (SPA) — Ugandan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mukiibi expressed his gratitude to King Fahd, to his well-guided government and to the Saudi people for the hospitality with which he was met during his visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of a news conference in Riyadh today, he expressed his country's appreciation for the moral support and noble stance of Saudi Arabia toward the struggle of the Ugandan people for stability and to end the massacres there during the past 6 years.

The Ugandan foreign minister said the aims of his visit to Saudi Arabia included informing the Saudi officials about the current situation in Uganda. He pointed out this situation is currently secure and stable because of the policies adopted by the current government. The aim of the visit was also to bolster the traditional friendship between Saudi Arabia and Uganda and their peoples. [passage omitted]

UAE

President Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat

JN011549 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Dec (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today dealing with the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, as well as with the situation in the camps. The message was conveyed by Khalid Malik, PLO office deputy head in Abu Dhabi, during his meetings with Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zaydi, UAE Foreign Ministry Under Secretary, here today.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bolivia

JN020840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2042 GMT 1 Nov 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Dec (WAKH) — The governments of the UAE and the Republic of Bolivia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of 1 December 1986.

A joint statement issued on this occasion said the decision was inspired by a common desire to strengthen friendly relations and develop cooperation between the two countries.

Paper Says Attempt To Blow Up U.S. Embassy Foiled

PM011313 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 18 Nov 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "News of Foiled Attempt To Blow Up U.S. Embassy"]

[Text] The security organs have foiled an attempt to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, defusing a high-explosive bomb just 15 minutes before it was due to explode. The bomb was in a private car near the embassy building in the Garden City district. Security services are making intensive investigations to reveal the mystery of the car.

Mubarak Receives Soviet Economic Delegation

NC020931 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning the Soviet economic delegation led by Viktor Dementsev, chairman of the USSR State Bank. The meeting was also attended by Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

Tabah Delegation Head Leaves for Geneva

NC020714 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the legal department at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, left Cairo this morning for Geneva for a visit of several days. In a predeparture statement, Ambassador al-'Arabi said the purpose of his visit to Switzerland is to consult with the Swiss and with the chairman of the board of arbitration over certain organizational and procedural matters related to the Tabah arbitration, which will officially start on 10 December. There will be a preliminary session on 8 December to discuss various arrangements.

NPUG Issues Statement on Economic Crisis

PM011645 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Nov 86 p 7

[NPUG statement issued "last week"]

[Text] The economic crisis has again erupted, sweeping away 'Ali Lutfi's government as it swept away Kamal Hasan 'Ali's government and will in the future sweep away every govenment that insists on adhering to the policies that produced the economic crisis and then increased its severity.

This was not an accidental or sudden crisis but the product of the group of policies laid down by Al-Sadat, especially the open-door economic policy. The crisis continued to expand and deepen in the years of Husni Mubarak's presidency as a result of the persistence with Al-Sadat's policies and the unwillingness and inability to make the money-hungry parasite classes bear the consequences of destructive policies.

When 'Ali Lutfi's government was formed in the early fall of last year, we warned against the developing preparations to accept U.S. pressures and the IMF's terms for solving the economic crisis. 'Ali Lutfi's government actually kept ignoring our warnings and, particularly in the face of the worsening economic crisis — because of the drop in oil prices — it imposed increasing burdens on the masses and middle classes. It began to seek aid and a way out from the United States, the IMF, and the World Bank, but all of them impose heavy terms, of which the following are the most important: increased prices, total abolition of subsidies, devaluation of the pound, an end to the provision of social services such as free education, health, and housing for the people, as well as an end to the recruitment of graduates.

The steps taken by successive governments do not solve anything; they do not solve the economic crisis, and they do not even solve the financial crisis, as the government imagines. On the contrary, they double the burdens on the masses and middle classes, while they double the advantages, privileges and the opportunities for wealth, robbery, and plunder for the parasitic and bureaucratic groups. At the same time they double the economy's subjection to foreign circles — the creditors and donors. Governments have also bowed to the parasites in the country and creditors abroad who demanded more concessions; this was announced by our party's Central Committee at its latest session 2 weeks ago. In fact, the IMF has come back and requested more concessions by demanding the complete abolition of real subsidies and the devaluation of the pound to half its official value. This has meant multiplying inflation rates, allowing prices to rise, and loading more burdens onto people who are already burdened and unhappy with what they are suffering: high prices and the widening of the gap between rich and poor. The bitter fruits of the open-door economic policy and the increased dependence on the outside world have continued: commodities production has slowed down; service activities have increased, especially the parasite services; and dependence on the outside world has doubled in order to secure food and weapons. Imports were released from controls and now total more than double the exports. The foreign debt has become an unbearable burden, reaching 38.6 billion dollars and with servicing of it in the current budget reaching 5.5 billion dollars. Egypt's economic surplus has been exhausted each year on paying interest to creditors among world capital at the expense of the Egyptians and the entire Egyptian economy.

This now means the distribution of national income in favor of international capitalism; it also places the whole Egyptian economy under the management of the big creditor countries, in particular the United States.

This is how the foreign debts have been transformed into a time bomb that explodes from time to time, sweeping away the existing government and bringing in another — less able, under the existing policies, to face the foreign debt crisis or solve the economic crisis.

The situation will remain thus as long as the governments are ready to respond, not to the urgent demands and requests of the people, but to the demands of the IMF abroad. Public opinion in our country has become less interested in changes of government. Changing a government does not help any more, since the problem is the method ofrule that protects the interests of parasites and bureaucrats and adheres to policies that can only worsen the economic crisis and that are rejected and resisted by the masses.

Whatever 'Atif Sidqi's intentions, whatever his efficiency, he cannot extricate Egypt from its economic crisis unless the current economic policies are changed.

Egypt needs another policy, a clear and direct policy of self-reliant independent development, a policy that includes a complete group of measures aimed at increasing production of commodities — especially food — fighting high costs, limiting imports, stopping foreign loans, protecting the value of the pound, and redistributing burdens among the classes according to their incomes and wealth. Egypt needs a policy of austerity to protect the living standards of the masses and middle classes from rapid deterioration, thus guaranteeing our attentive and free participation in rescuing the Egyptian economy and Egypt as a whole. This requires essential democratic changes.

The starting point for confronting the economic crisis is, in our view, a program of urgent economic reform. Our party, which has such a program and considers it the only alternative to the IMF program, calls on all the people and political powers to adopt it and struggle for its achievement.

Such a program must necessarily involve urgent executive measures, foremost among which are:

First: the abolition of the policy of imports without transfers of currency.

Second: stopping the import of luxury goods and unnecessary goods for 3 years.

Third: restricting food imports to companies in the public sector and the country.

Fourth: comprehensive reconsideration of tax exemptions granted to the open-door policy investors and their restriction to vital projects for the Egyptian economy.

Fifth: mobilization of national resources so as to increase the country's production capacity; protection of the savings of Egyptians working abroad from the tricks and speculation of currency traders and importers.

Sixth: national control, through the Central Bank, of all banks operating in Egypt regardless of their ownership; abolition of laws and resolutions that give some banks advantages that affect national sovereignty; reconsideration of the positions of foreign and joint banks and all investment companies to guarantee the soundness of their transactions and to protect the money of depositors and savers.

Seventh: the increase of wheat production and the achievement of self-sufficiency in corn and pulses by expanding the cultivated area and by increasing productivity; and the reconsideration of agricultural crop prices to ensure the highest profitability for the main food crops.

Eighth: reconsideration of Egypt's foreign debts and a call for an international conference on settling the developing countries' foreign debts in accordance with the recommendations made by the nonaligned countries in their latest conferences.

The NPUG, in presenting these urgent measures, is perfectly aware that any program for economic reform cannot succeed unless the masses accept it and want its implementation. It cannot be achieved except through the effective participation of the popular masses, their freely elected unions, and the political parties that they choose to join of their own free will; the masses must have confidence in the integrity of the general elections to ensure that their representatives can actually obtain seats in the People's Assembly and local councils to guard their interests. Therefore, our party not only warns against harming constitutional legitimacy, the law's sovereignty, or the limited democratic freedoms available at present but also calls the courage to take serious steps to revive political life, foremost among which are:

First: the lifting of the state of emergency declared more than 5 years ago, during which violence has doubled and repression and terrorism have increased.

Second: the abolition of the emergency laws restricting freedoms, above all the law on protecting the internal front; the abolition of all restrictions on the freedom to form political parties, trade unions, white collar unions, and associations and also the restrictions on their freedom to practice their activities.

Third: the abolition of the system of election by absolute or proportional party list in the laws for electing local councils and the People's Assembly; and the adoption of measures guaranteeing the freedom and integrity of elections by reviewing the law on the exercise of political rights.

All political and social powers — regardless of their different ideological directions and opinions about the form of the economy and society after they have been rescued from subjection and sabotage — must realize the truth of the crisis engulfing our country, specify their stand courageously, and shoulder their responsibilities, whether on the side of those who sabotage the national economy or on the side of those who desire reform.

Lutfi Affirms 'Freedom' of Egyptian Press

JN011209 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Nov 86 p 5

[Interview with 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Council and chairman of the Supreme Press Council, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts][passage omitted][Al-Sa'id] The stormy climate experienced by the press recently prompts us to pause and think, particularly as most of the accusations are levelled against the opposition press?

[Lutfi] The problem faced by some of the opposition papers is that they abuse the right of political freedom. By such abuse I mean that they attack many officials personally in an unobjective manner, and this is incompatible with our ethics and values. They pass judgment and make statements that have no basis, and consequently such papers sink into confusion.

I ask: Is this because the popular bases of the opposition parties is not solid? Or is it the desire to increase circulation by resorting to sensationalism? Such questions arise when diagnosing the state of the press today. It is important to answer such questions truthfully, objectively, and logically in a manner that is compatible with the economic and social challenges we are facing, and in a manner that strengthens and entrenches the democratic system which is a big popular gain that must be safeguarded and protected, and also in a manner that serves the interests of these papers and the aims of the political parties. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Can one say that the multi-party system and the feuding among the parties have spoiled the press and encouraged it to adopt a caustic, scathing, and obdurate tone that deliberately destroys the gains and achievements? A press that can best be described as a press of slander and incitement?

[Lutfi] I do not agree with your accusations against the press. The press is a popular authority that carries out its role. The mistakes that occur are no more than a black spot on a white page, and do not diminish the importance of the press or the discharging of its mission. The mistakes that occur cannot be attributed to the majority of parties, for a multi-party system is a characteristic of democracy. The parties are the channels that enable different points of view to be expressed and enable political participation in the decisionmaking process by the representatives of the parties in the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, and injects vitality and awareness into political action. All these reasons make it necessary to preserve the multi-party system. As for the opposition parties indulging in certain abuses through their press, these parties need to reconsider their attitude for the sake of a sound democracy, so that our press will truly reflect our national concerns and issues.

[Al-Sa'id] That means you do not agree with those who believe that our press is passing through a transition period where the picture appears to be unclear, shaky, changing, and incomplete?

[Lutfi] In general our press is in a good state. The opposition press is guilty of certain abuses and of refusing to understand the nature of the challenges we are facing, but that does not change my view that our press is in a good state as long as it respects the freedom of expression — and this also applies to the national press. The press must face the problems we are facing now, problems that have accumulated over many years. A united view and concerted efforts are need to confront these problems and find radical solutions to them so that we can all commit ourselves to a single, firm national stand on these problems. In the present stage of building we need cohesion among all the various views and trends, and no one should try to poison the atmosphere by vituperations, abuses, and insignificant issues. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Some people are calling for the amendment or cancellation of the press law, claiming that it is no longer capable of coping with developments in Egypt. What is your view?

[Lutfi] Contrary to what some people believe — and I am sure they are in a minority — the press law is fully compatible with the development of Egyptian society. The law states that the press is an independent popular authority that exercises its mission freely in the service of society, and that such a freedom aims to create a free climate through enlightened knowledge and a contribution to better solutions in everything connected with the interests of the country and the citizens. Does not law safeguard and consolidate one of the pillars of democracy in Egypt? [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Doubts are being expressed and accusations levelled regarding the relationship between the national press and the authorities. The opposition claims that the authorities monitor what is said and give the green light for the publication of what they want, and hence it is the authorities who control what is published in Egypt?

[Lutfi] There is no place for such doubts. If some people express such doubts it is because it is in their nature to doubt everything. A quick glance at what is published in the national press — be it news reportage, opinion columns, or cartoons — will illustrate the extent of the writer's freedom to express his view without censorship. What I am saying is a fact seen daily in the press. As for the green light the authorities may give so their views will be disseminated, there is no such thing. However, there is a kind of clarification: It is important that the press should be regularly informed about the national developments and concerns of which the state wants the citizens to be aware. Such a clarification is not peculiar to us, but is made by all states, including democratic states. I want to reaffirm that such a clarification does not mean censorship, or giving a green or a red light, but aims to put the national press and the government on the same wavelength for understanding our national affairs. The clarification, therefore, does not mean censorship or mandatory publishing, but is merely participation in the achievement of the same policies and objectives.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there really a plan under study that will prohibit working for both the national and the Arab press?

[Lutfi] These are mere rumors, and there is no truth in them. If there is such a plan I would like those who spread such rumors to tell me about it.

[Al-Sa'id] It is alleged that what really spoiled our press is the phenomenon of combining work for both the Egyptian press and the Arab press. Will Article 44 of the press law, which states that it is the prerogative of the Supreme Press Council to give permission to journalists who wish to work for a foreign organization, on condition that they obtain the approval of the institution for whom they are working, be reviewed?

[Lutfi] First of all I want to say it is a source of pride to have Egyptian writers airing their views in the Arab press. That in itself illustrates Egypt's leading intellectual role in the Arab world. Indeed, the bright spots in many Arab newspapers can be attributed to contributions by Egyptian writers. Cosequently, it is necessary to distinguish between two situations: the situation of patriotic and national contribution — which is a constructive source of pride that enriches the Arab press in general — and the situation of those who falsely attack and slander Egypt in the Arab press — which is regrettable and sad. Those who indulge in the latter harm both themselves and their country. I do not wish to say more at present. [passage omitted]

Coptic Pope Interviewed on Religious Issues

JN301316 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Nov 86 p 3

[Interview with Coptic Pope Shinudah by Bayyumi Qandil — date and place not given]

[Text] [Qandil] The 1919 revolution was the greatest in the British colonies at that time. It united the Muslim and Christian Egyptians in facing the British. The political literature at the time expressed this phenomenon by referring to the unity of the nation's two elements. In my opinion, the Egyptian nation is composed of one rather than two elements. What is your opinion?

[Shinudah] I am also inclined to say that the Egyptians are composed of one element, be they Muslims or Christians. The great unity between the two communities has wiped out all anthropoligical, national, and cultural differences between them. Even the names they give to children are the same except for a few distinctive names. The reference to the Egyptians as two elements was intended to indicate the two religions. They are the same, belonging to the same homeland and the same nationalism.

[Quandil] Since it was introduced into Egypt, the Christian religion acquired Egyptian features and traits. Historically, we know that the translation of the bible from the Greek into the Coptic language was a manifestation of the Egyptian resistance to the Greek occupation. However, we notice that the recent sectarian currents that are trying to shake the historical unity between the two communities started with sectarian slogans from one side and a reaction to these slogans with slogans from the other side. Nobody could raise a slogan of unity such as: Religion is for God; the Homeland is for all. I wonder why this is.

[Shinudah] The Egyptian Copts have been adhering to their Egyptian nationalism since ancient times and are still doing so. When religious divisions occurred in the Christian world, the Copts in Egypt adhered to their special characteristics, which are different from those of the Greek, or what is called the eastern Roman state. When Islam came to Egypt, the Coptic patriarch "Binyamin" had been banished for 13 years by orders of the Roman [Byzantine] state. He was reinstated by 'Amr ibn al-'As when he conquered Egypt. Relations were good between the Muslims and Christians. In recent history, the Muslims and Christians were united in fighting the British occupation. Nobody said the British were Christians. Both the Copts and the Muslims considered them foreign occupiers of the country, and thought that they should go. Before that and during the crusades, the Copts and the Muslims were in one trench against the crusaders.

Therefore, the important factor was not religion but Egyptian nationalism. We continue to look on our country as Egypt, which all of us, regardless of religion, should protect. In the Army, all have the same feelings and thoughts, and all aim to win victory for Egypt. The Copts strongly opposed some Vatican decisions, especially the recent decision to absolve the Jews of killing Christ. I was among those who wrote much and spoke much in major forums against this move. At that time this issue was not a matter of Christians or non-Christians. Even when the Sunday schools were established, they were intended to teach the Christians the principles of their religion so they would not be misled by western missionary movements in Egypt.

[Qandil] Some people say that the Coptic Church calls for establishing a Coptic state in Asyut. How true is this?

[Shinudah] The problem arose when a secret document purporting to be signed by Pope Shinudah III appeared in March 1972. This contains unreasonable and imaginary things. However, this publication spread on a wide scale. This prompted the government to appoint a fact-finding committee under Dr Jamal al-Ding al-'Atifi. The committee issued a report on its finding, concluding that the document was clearly fabricated. There the issue rested at that time. However the issue was revived again in some books that republished both the document and what were called voice recordings. If these recordings were genuine, they would have been released during previous crises. Then came the issue that was raised by the late president [Al-Sadat] on what he heard concerning the call for establishing a Coptic state in Asyut or what was presented to Pope Kirolos when he visited Ethiopia. Of course, we do not know — in fact nobody knows — who presented the issue and what its aim was. No Copt or Egyptian heard about this subject. In this regard, I would like to make some observations:

1. Is it possible for the Copts to leave all their holy places in the various parts of Egypt and confine themselves to Asyut? Is it possible for them to abandon Wadi al-Natrun and the places that Jesus' family visited during its visit to Egypt, the Coptic patriarchate in Al-Inba Runways in Al-'Abbasiyah, the Virgin's Church in Al-Zaytun, and the Al-Jabal al-Ahmar monasteries, which date back to the 4th century and which are the most ancient monasteries in the world?

2. Is it not possible to guarantee the security of the Copts by their merging with their Muslim brethren in everything? Can anyone imagine that Copts are so stupid as to congregate in one area so it would be easy to attack them if someone wanted to do that? The security of the Copts is guaranteed by merging with their Muslim brethren everywhere: in the school, hospital, factory, street, and house. Nobody would harm them then, because if he did he would also be harming others. Moreover, it is difficult for Copts to give up their cordial relations and social ties with their Muslim brethren everywhere in Egypt. I personally was breast-fed by Muslim and Christian women as a child. My mother died while I was an infant. Therefore, I have Muslim and Christian foster brothers.

3. Is it conceivable for Egypt to be divided into three states: a state north of Asyut, Asyut itself, and a state south of Asyut? This is sheer imagination. But such talk in the days of the late President Anwar al-Sadat had an effect on some people and was exploited by others. Nobody can provide proof. However, spreading claims on a large scale without evidence created harmful delusions.

4. Is it conceivable for the Asyut Muslims to leave their mosques, factories, stores, houses, lands, cemeteries of their fathers and

forefathers, and all that is dear to them to the Copts, despite the fact that every man has the natural right to adhere to his country, land, and properties? The Coptic Church is a national church that does not have any leadership outside Egypt. The historical name of this church is the Church of Alexandria.

[Qandil] It has been reiterated that the Coptic Church is telling its followers not to practice birth control; how true is this?

[Shinudah] The Church has never opposed birth control. Egyptian Christians or Copts are practicing birth control according to their own conscience and without the need for any church instructions. In fact, birth control has become an economic, social, and national necessity. The increase in population has become a heavy burden on the state as it adversely affects the provision of housing, food supplies, and job opportunities. We have in our patriarchate a public service bishopric whose task is to oversee family planning and enlighten citizens everywhere in the republic on family planning in cooperation with the international organization FPLA. [preceding word in English] It is in Egypt's interest to carry out family planning according to its resources. As you know, Christianity has laws on priesthood, celebacy, and chastity that prevent marital relations during fasting days, which amount to half a year.

[Qandil] What is your position on the application of Islamic Shari'a in Egypt?

[Shinudah] Islamic Shari'a is currently the subject of a dialogue among our Muslim brothers. We are awaiting the results of this dialogue. As far as we Christians are concerned, the important thing is how Christians will be treated under the Islamic Shari'a. They need to reassure us not only on the social level, but also on the legal level. Would the application of the Shari'a reduce our rights as citizens or deprive us of equal rights? When a debate started on article two of the present constitution, we requested the following addition to the article: As far as non-Muslims are concerned, there should be no coercion in religion. They should enjoy complete equality as other citizens. Their laws should apply on matters dealing with personal status and so forth. We have noted for instance that even the new Iranian constitution announced by the Islamic Republic recognizes in Article 13, which deals with the religion of the state, the rights of the other religious minorities including the followers of Zaradesht.

[Qandil] What are the latest developments in the Dayr al-Sultan case?

[Shinudah] Dayr al-Sultan has been the property of the Copts for several centuries. What happened could be summed up as follows: While our Coptic bishop was performing Easter prayers in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on 25 April 1970, Israeli policemen attacked the monastery, seized it, and gave it to Ethiopian clergymen. They then changed the locks and keys and prevented the Coptic bishop from entering the monastery. We filed a case against them before the Israeli Higher Court, which ruled in our favor and condemned the Israeli minister of police. But the Israeli government did not carry out the Court's ruling, considering it a political rather than a legal issue. Thus, since then the Ethiopian clergymen have seized the monastery by force. Since then also, our bishop has been trying hard to regain the monastery. Many promises were given, but nothing was done. The matter has been frozen for years. For our part, we have stopped pilgrimage to Jerusalem as long as the monastery is occupied. Recently, some people contacted me by telephone suggesting a meeting with an Israeli official. I told them: If this official has anything new to say, then he should say it to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which will then relay it to me.

[Qandil] Are there any common bases between the two main religions in Egypt, Islam and Christianity, to make it possible to produce a book that could be taught to all Egyptian students without any discrimination between Muslim or Christian?

[Shinudah] Undoubtedly, there are several common points, such as belief in the one God, the life hereafter, reward and punishment, prophesy, miracles, and all virtues. It could be possible to produce a book that covers all these common points but that does not touch on religious differences. I proposed such a book during the 1977 meeting of Muslim and Christian leaders in 'Abidin Palace. President Anwar al-Sadat approved the idea, but it was not possible to carry it out even as a form of general knowledge outside the school curriculula.

AL-AHALI Criticizes Mubarak Speech, Government

PM281515 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Nov 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Criticism and Opposition...a Crime"]

[Text] The general political conditions and issues of democracy were the central theme of the president's speech at the opening of the new session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council last Wednesday, because by necessity these issues reflect on the economic situation and on Arab and foreign relations, as the president said.

While agreeing with the president on the importance of political and democratic issues, we cannot but disagree with what the president said in his speech. We cannot discuss what he said in this speech about democracy, the parties, and the press without noting what the president said about the same issues 8 days earlier during his meeting with the press. The contents of the two speeches were totally different.

The president told the People's Assembly and Consultative Council that Egypt is all the parties and the national and partisan press put together, and that Egyptian patriotism is not confined to one group to the exclusion of another.

Eight days earlier the president accused the leaders of the opposition parties of running the parties to serve their own interests. He charged that their campaigns against the government are linked to their own market and business interests, that the opposition parties and press are financed from foreign sources, and that 90 percent of what is published in the opposition press are lies with no useful information or solutions to the problems.

Which of the two statements are we to believe and which is to be the basis of dealing and dialogue?

The most important political aspect of the speech was its interpretation of criticism and of the causes of the crisis, with which we disagree completely.

The president considers talking about the armed forces, condemning the police excesses and the spreading phenomenon of torture in prisons, opposing executive authority decisions, exposing corruption, supporting the right to peaceful strikes, and urging the enshrinement of that right in law to be expressions of aggression against the legitimate institutions, an affront to the great responsibility undertaken by our armed forces, an attempt to shake confidence in the security organs and portray society as corrupt and immoral, and an attempt to incite and instigate. This is a dangerous interpretation which turns criticism and opposition into a crime.

The president attributes the crisis of democracy to partisanship, insults and attacks on the state's legitimate institutions, and the transformation of dialogue into quarrel, friction, and abuse. This very interpretation is the cause of all our crises because it concentrates on peripheral aspects and ignores the real issues.

Our crisis is an outcome of the ready-made institutions that legislate and execute — which, because they are the product of forgery and rigged elections, have lost all credibility with the public. They are institutions which rely on a laws that restrict freedom and violate human rights and the Constitution in order to protect their own existence and continuity.

The rulers' continued disregard for the real causes of the crisis and their search for unreal causes close the door to any development and confirms that the battle will be difficult and long.

Trade Unions Criticize Government Changes

PM011041 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 18 Nov 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egypt's Workers Affirm to the Ruling Party the Independence of the Trade Union Movement"]

[Text] Egypt's General Federation of Trade Unions held last Wednesday an emergency meeting attended by the federation's board of directors, heads of general unions, and heads of local unions in order to discuss the recent political changes. A mood of great anger pervaded the meeting because the union movement was ignored in the recent changes. Opposition to the NDP was the prevailing tone. The union leaderships were angered by the removal of Mahmud Dabbur from the position of People's Assembly deputy speaker, as he is a representative of the union movement of workers and farmers.

The removal of Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad from the cabinet was attributed to his stands in favor of the public sector, and since a heated dispute took place between Minister of Tourism Fu'ad Sultan and Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, some conclude that the NDP took the side of the former, who continued in the cabinet.

The General Federation of Trade Unions issued at the expanded meeting, which they described as historical, a statement that the newspapers have not published, which forced the federation to publish it as a paid advertisement in Al-Akhbar and Al-Jumhuriyah. The statement confirmed the union movement's independence from the parties and stated that the trade unionist organizations are elected organizations and that they are the most harmonious organizations.

Saddam Husayn: Iran Arms Deal 'Expected'

JN011819 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1605 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Huseyn at 1 December ceremony in Baghdad to award a group of families with the Martyr's Medal on martyr day — recorded]

[Excerpts] Every year, Iraq and all the Iraqi people, including the Iraqi command, celebrate a special day and hold a special ceremony to commemorate our righteous martyrs. [Passage omitted]

I am sure some of you do not read as we ourselves read and do not follow up as we do the behavior of the Iranian rulers and their policies. For the past 7 or 8 years, we have been hearing that the main slogan in Iran is talk about the arch Satan and when they are asked who is the arch Satan, they reply the United States is the arch Satan. They also used to raise slogans on the battlefront to brainfwash those they send to the front to fight ght Iraqi Army. They used to tell them: You have to occupy Iraq because without Iraq's occupation it is impossible to liberate Jerusalem. By doing this, they try to create a certain romanticism about holy Jerusalem and its special status in the hearts of some Iranians. We have repeatedly told them that if you want to liberate Jerusalem you can pass through Iraq but not as occupiers.

However, after 7 years of the war, the world wakes up to discover shameful details about the special and dirty cooperation between U.S. organs and the Zionist entity — a cooperation with those claiming to be patriotic Muslims and those claiming to seek the Liberation of Jerusalem. This is their true nature. They could not deceive or dupe us. But if some of you will go back 7 or 8 years ago, you will remember how many in the Arab homeland and the Islamic community were deceived into believing Iran would have good intentions. Some expected the Iranians would really establish an Islamic state and that instead of being the Arabs' opponent they would help them in arenas of struggle and in confronting the Zionist entity.

However, we were not deceived. In accordance with our own analysis, which has now come to pass and which the world has now discovered, we were expecting this to take place before now. Officially, it has been taking place for the past 18 months, while some say it has been taking place for the past 7 years. However, we expected this movement would assume power in Iran 4 months before they came to power. We also expected that their first evil deed would be against Iraq. We expected this on the basis of our analysis of circumstances in the region and of the march of the revolution in terms of construction, forming the new Iraqi individual, making him happy, and establishing a new society in Iraq, and also on the basis of our own analysis of circumstances that Arab nations experience. We deduced that the shah would be toppled and that Khomeyni would come to power and that the first task he would carry out would be to antagonize Iraq and wage war against Iraq. We expected this cooperation between Israel and the Iranian regime because this type of regime which raises flamboyant slogans and speaks loudly is not a strange thing to us. We have experienced such regimes in our Arab and Iraqi history and later discovered that they are charlatans and forgerers. That's why before 1 year of the war went by we started calling Khomeyni a charlatan. A majority of Iranians now say Khomeyni is a charlatan. [passage omitted]

Faraj: Morale 'Not Affected' By U.S.-Iran Deal

PM011155 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
28 Nov 86 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Iraqi Planning Minister Tells *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: The U.S.-Iranian Deal Has Not Affected Iraq"]

[Text] Amman — Iraqi Planning Minister Dr Samal Majid Faraj has emphasized that the U.S. military aid to Iran has not affected the Iraqi people's high morale and that there is complete conviction that Iraqi combat and defense capabilities are far superior to those of Iran. The best proof of thet, he said, is the fact that Iraq has effectively repulsed all Iran's repeated attacks and dashed all Iran's hopes of harming Iraq and storming its cities.

In an exclusive statement to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* during his visit to Amman the Iraqi minister urged the Arab states to stand more firmly and seriously than ever before "with Iraq in order to put an end to this aggressive war and to bury all kinds of plots against the Arab nation, especially this clear U.S. conspiracy against Iraq with Israel's participation."

He said that the U.S. military aid to Iran once again provides evidence of the negative and even aggressive intentions not only against Iraq but also against the entire Arab nation.

In reply to a question, the Iraqi minister said that "despite the aggressive war imposed on Iraq, the Iraqi economy has continued to grow and implementation of development projects has also continued. Hundreds of development projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, transport, communications, education, health, and social services have been completed."

He noted that Iraq's national income has increased from 812 million Iraqi dinars in 1968 to more than 11 billion dinars in 1984. He added that the investment plan covers hundreds of development projects which will be implemented in 1987 and the few following years to add more strength to the Iraqi economy.

He also said that it must be pointed out that one of the main aims of the plots against Iraq is to weaken and even paralyze the Iraqi economy after Iraq's excellent consolidation of its economic base and the excellent results it has achieved in the field of development.

PNPF: Arms Deal 'Proves' Iran-Zionist Ties

JN012134 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front [PNPF], presided over a PNPF meeting of the Front's Secretariat General to discuss the dimensions of the U.S.- Zionist-Iranian arms cooperation.

Comrade Hasan 'Ali affirmed that this cooperation will not prevent our proud people and their national forces from continuing their march of construction and development under struggler President Saddam Husayn's unique, historic leadership. He added that our proud people will continue to insist on defending the homeland and its sacred soil against the aggression of the unjust group in Iran. They will also protect the achievements and gains of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. At the end of the meeting, the Front issued a statement condemning the suspect cooperation between the U.S. Administration, the Zionist entity, and the Iranian regime which is hostile to the Arab nation and its legitimate aspirations. The Secretariat General also affirmed that the admission by the United States and the Zionist entity that they supplied the Iranian regime with weapons to continue its agression against our peaceful people proves Iraq's announcements about the suspicious and aggressive ties between the charlatan group in Iran and Zionism.

The statement says that Iraq's victories over the forces of the dubious Iranian regime have foiled criminal plans related to the strategic Zionist-imperialist-Khomeyniite hostility to our struggler Arab nation and its eastern flank, the center of hope represented by Iraq.

Communique No 2,465 Details Latest Combat

JN011737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,465 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the day of martyrs and of the mast of the fluttering Iraqi flag, our valiant Armed Forces renew the pledge of loyalty to the leader of victory, may God protect him, stressing that every drop of pure blood will bring good to the people of sacrifices and heroic deeds and will remain a sword in the body of the criminal Zionist Iranian regime. Our country's sovereignty, dignity, and borders will continue to be safeguarded with what the best of men, whose place is in paradise and in the hearts of millions, have offered.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. A brave force from our units in the central sector raided enemy positions opposite the II Army Corps front, dealing them a violent blow. The force succeeded in destroying and burning the enemy positions and in inflicting losses on the Khomeyniites. The force then returned safely to base. Elsewhere in this sector, two infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was set ablaze.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded enemy positions opposite them, destroying three infantry positions and one boat and killing their occupants. In other parts of this sector, three enemy soldiers were killed and several infantry positions were destroyed.

3. The VII Army Corps soldiers continued their combat activities and succeeded in destroying some enemy positions and shelters, killing five and destroying a tower.

4. The Zionist Khomeyniites shelled the suburbs of Basra and Al-Qurnah with long-range artillery, wounding a child.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 December 1986

Taha Yasin Ramadan Returns From CSSR Visit

JN011627 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad last night after a visit to the CSSR lasting several days. He described his talks with President Gustav Husak and Premier Lubomir Strougal and the expanded official talks as very important and friendly and a detailed discussion of bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war, and Arab and international issues of common interest.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said: We gave the CSSR leadership a detailed explanation of the latest developments in the war, of the Iranian regime's escalation of its large-scale aggression, its shelling of cities, its continued aggression against Iraq, and of its rejection of all peaceful efforts and international resolutions. He added Iraq will continue to destroy the Iranian regime's military and economic installations, pointing out Iraq's defense capabilities during the 7th year of the war are better than before.

Ramadan also said the CSSR leadership stressed the need to bring about peace between Iraq and Iran, as well as its decision to continue efforts in this regard, its support for Iraq's peace initiatives to end the war, and the CSSR's sympathy with Iraq which is defending its sovereignty and independence. He added the visit produced very important results represented in th signing of a long-term cooperation agreement in economic, scientific, technical, and trade areas and in the two countries' belief in the need to expand cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, as well as between organizations and professional and popular trade unions. Ramadan affirmed this comprehensive agreement under the current circumstances is viewed as great progress in bilateral relations and a reflection of existing profound cooperation and serious action by both sides to strengthen it in the long run in the interest of joint goals of both countries and peoples.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also pointed out that signing any long-term agreement is a sign of confidence in Iraq's strength politically, militarily, and economically, stressing that the success of the visit and its positive results give new bases and strength to Iraq's capability and its determination to continue to build and defend the homeland. Ramadan's accompanying delegation comprised Subhi Yasin, industry and minerals minister and head of the Iraqi side on the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee; the under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry and the Industry and Minerals Ministry; and a large number of specialized employees of concerned ministries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan was accorded a warm official sendoff. Leading those who saw him off were Premier Lubomir Strougal, the ministers, senior state and party officials, and the Iraqi Embassy staff in Prague.

Government, Egypt To 'Confront Iranian Onslaught'

JN011314 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has affirmed that Jordan will not hesitate to do its utmost to carry out its pan-Arab duty and commitment toward the Arab states to confront the Iranian onslaught that threatens the security of the Gulf states and the whole Arab entity. The Jordanian prime minister appealed to the Arab states to abide by the collective Arab defense pact.

Al-Rifa'i made this statement to the Jordanian official news agency, PETRA, yesterday. His statements have coincided with those made yesterday in Cairo by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who also urged the Arab states to stand by the collective Arab defense pact to confront Iranian threats. President Mubarak also said Egypt will abide by this pact if Iran attacked Arab Gulf countries.

Observers in Amman consider the timing of the statements by President Mubarak and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i as part of the intensive political coordination between Egypt and Jordan. These statements may pave the way for joint action by the two states with regard to the Iraq-Iran war. Informed sources say this topic was discussed during King Husayn's visit to Cairo on 22 November and in wake of the disclosure of the U.S. arms deal to Iran.

King Husayn Palestinian Solidarity Day Message

JN012055 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1802 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] On the occasion of the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, His Majesty King Husayn has addressed a message to the Committee on the Palestinian People's Inalienable Rights to be read on his majesty's behalf by Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations at the UN General Assembly this evening. The following is the text of the address:

His Excellency, the Chairman of the Committee on the Palestinian People's Inalienable Rights: First of all, it gives me pleasure to convey to you and to the esteemed committee members ample thanks and appreciation for your persistent efforts to remove the injustice that has befallen the Palestinian Arab people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the absence of peace in the Middle East. Your serious and objective endeavors in this respect are a major contribution toward realizing justice and fair treatment for this people which has suffered from prejudice and dispersion more than any other people in contemporary history.

There is no doubt that your constructive efforts are a major contribution toward growing international belief that the basis of peace between the Arab countries and Israel is the realization of justice for the Palestinian people.

This annual celebration of an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people is a testimony to the international community's concern over the tragic state of affairs the Palestinians are experiencing and is irrefutable evidence of the reawakening of the international community's conscience and of its constant adherence to the values of justice, right, and quality, values which form the only basis for establishing a sound international community based on brotherhood, peace, and cooperation. For this reason your defense of the Palestinian people is a real investment in the battle for international peace and for the defense of principles of justice and rights everywhere.

As for us in Jordan, we did not hesistate in assuming the responsibility that our national and pan-Arab commitments dictate to us toward our Palestinian Arab people, in addition to our ethical commitment to defend principles of justice and right. We stood by the side of our Palestinian brothers in the same trench when they stood by themselves in the first stages of the aggression which was prepared and planned on an international level to invade Palestine and wipe out its Arab identity as part of a world onslaught against the unified and independent Arab existence.

The Jordanian and Palestinian people later stood united in the face of Israeli designs of expansion and attempts to eradicate Palestinian identity and the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to the soil of their ancestors. We jointly assumed the responsibility of confronting the fiercest and most perilous external onslaught, armed with a sincere pan-Arab determination and with a firm unionist belief embodied in Jordanian-Palestinian unity which will remain the solid rock against which all the attempts to destroy the Palestinian people and to disavow their historic and inalienable rights to their land will founder.

We have supported them and will continue to support them with all our capabilities until they are capable of exercising their legitimate rights free from foreign occupation and control. We are confident that your sincere activities for the Palestinian people will ultimately make you appreciate the historical responsibility and the vanguard and effective role Jordan asssumes in this sphere.

If the international community has gradually come to realize the extent of the tribulations and the sufferings which have befallen the Palestinians, it, as yet, has not succeeded in putting into practice its will which is embodied in resolutions and stands on justice and equity for all. That is why we must now amend this salient state of affairs by jointly seeking to attain justice for all, particularly for the Palestinian people.

For our part, we have stated, and the overwhelming majority has supported us in our statements, that the only way to achieve this is through attaining comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on principles of international legitimacy annd binding UN resolutions.

Toward this end, we signed with the PLO the 11 February 1985 agreement whose bases and guidelines continue to govern our political moves toward the Palestinian cause. We also asked for an international conference on peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to be attended by all parties concerned, in addition to the five UN

Security Council permanent members, to establish a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace and to settle the Palestinian problem in all aspects. No one has so far objected to this course with the exception of Israel and its allies -- whom we believe are taking such a stand not because they fail to comprehend the fairness of the Palestinian people's cause, but because of transient interests -- and it has been proved that these parties are ready to sacrifice the noble principles on which the United Nations is established.

For these and other reasons, we find ourselves dutybound not only to support your efforts and bless them, but also to call on you to exert further efforts with everyone, particularly with the allies of Israel and its supporters, until they realize the magnitude of the peril engendered by Israel's intransigence and its refusal to respond to various peace calls and until they are convinced their real interests will be safeguarded and further entrenched through their support for international legitimacy and through standing by the side of justice and peace.

There is no doubt that you will find in our sincere intentions for peace and in our constancy in defending our historical rights the best assistance in carrying out such an endeavor. The Arabs have unambiguously proclaimed their desire for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. The Palestinian people have also stated that they abide by peace and reject attempts to confine them within a circle of extremism, rejection, and violence to avoid being easily removed and liquidated.

In line with this, we responded positively to UN resolutions and to all peace initiatives while Israel responded with rejection and intransigence. It also sought to reject all these initiatives and to void them of their contents through its continued occupation of Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as its annexation of Arab Jerusalem and the Golan, not to mention its attempts to expand at the expense of Lebanon, in addition to its policies and practices voilating human rights and international law in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The region is experiencing many tribulations and the Palestinian people are suffering from many pains. However, this must not be an obstacle to peace but an incentive to pursue sincere action to attain peace. For this purpose, let us seriously and sincerely work to exploit the last opportunity available to us, the convocation of an international conference which we and the overwhelming majority view as a suitable formula through which peace can be achieved. We praise the international community's support for the Palestinian people, its standing by the side of Arab rights, and its support for an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

In conclusion, our faith in our historical rights in Palestine cannot be shaken and this faith is equaled by faith in the objectives of the United Nations and in its ability to impose peace and attain justice for all oppressed people. We wish you success in your noble endeavor to attain justice and peace on the basis of international legitimacy, to enable the Palestinian Arab people to regain their legitimate rights, and to put an end to the tribulation and sufferings they have long been enduring. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Restrictions on Cairo-Amman Bank Protested

JN011656 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
30 Nov 86 p 7

[Text] Amman — The Cairo-Amman Bank Nabulus branch has begun to distribute checkbooks to its clients following the preliminary decision by the bank's management to also allow inhabitants of Jerusalem to open accounts at the branch. On the other hand, official quarters have announced that the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to conduct financial activities in dinars and that such activities must be done in shekels.

It was recently learned that Jordanian authorities protested against not allowing the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip to exercise their banking rights, as Jordan believes the failure to grant full rights to the inhabitants of the occupied territories at the Cairo-Amman Bank constitutes an approval of Israeli annexation of the territories.

Karami Appeals for End to Fighting in Camps

NC011950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today made a sincere appeal for a cease-fire in the camps and the areas adjacent to them as quickly as possible. He expressed his hope that participants at the ongoing meetings in Damascus will succeed in their attempts to organize the relationship between those fighting and give guarantees to all the parties concerned. He called for facilitating the work of humanitarian groups for the sake of the people.

Karami made this statement after chairing the weekly meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of West Beirut Security. The session was also attended by Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran. Karami said:

[Begin recording] Discussion at this coordination committee meeting focused on the events now taking place in and around the camps. This is a painful situation and one that everyone rejects. This war will not benefit any of the disputing parties. Everyone stands to lose and will eventually be accountable for endangering Lebanon, the Lebanese people, and other residents. For this reason, we issue a sincere appeal for a cease-fire as quickly as possible to stop the bloodshed and put an end to this massacre, destruction, and danger. The fighting imperils both the Palestinians and the Lebanese. We hope the continuing meetings in Damascus between the PLO and the brothers in the other parties will succeed in making arrangements to organize the relationship between those who are fighting and give guarantees to all the parties concerned, thereby reassuring them and creating confidence. There will then be no justification for this fighting. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC020704 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement saying any return to the state of affairs that prevailed before 1982 is completely out of the question. The statement goes on to say that Hizballah rejects every plan aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people and notes that the plot is vicious and complicated. Hence, it is incumbent on all parties to be vigilant so they do not fall into the trap. The statement appeals to the warring factions to stop the fighting and agree on ways to end the ordeal, the results of which can only serve the Zionist enemy.

Hizballah emphasizes that the outcome of this ordeal will be the disruption of the course of the Islamic resistance. Efforts to obstruct its human and material supplies are extremely serious and must be dealt with, without any attempts at one-upmanship. Furthermore, the isolation of our kinfolk in the south is bound to inflict very grave economic, social, and political damage on them and constitutes an invitation to the Zionist enemy to enter our arena through the gap thus created, Hizballah concludes.

Amal Holds Al-Qadhdhafi Responsible for Conflict

NC011231 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau has issued the following statement:

Once again the kidnapper of Imam al-Sadr [Al-Qadhdhafi] has shed crocodile tears over the Palestinian camps and has called on the president of the Syrian Arab Republic to intervene to stop what he terms the encirclement or extermination of the Palestinians in Shatila camp. Meanwhile, Major Jallud has interfered in the ongoing discussions in Damascus to complicate any near solution, releasing statements full of flowery and revolutionary expressions.

The Amal Movement stresses that any agreement on the current events in the camps must be sponsored and guaranteed by Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran and must make a distinction between the presence of Palestinian civilians and the armed presence.

There is no independent security for the camps. The Palestinian rifle, if it is to be used to fight Israel, must come under the command of the Amal Movement. Otherwise, it should be put into store or disappear for good.

We in the Amal Mvement adhere to Imam al-Sadr's principles, which separate the enemy from the friend. We will not permit Al-Qadhdhafi and his accomplices in the crime of the disappearance of Imam al-Sadr to trade in Lebanese and Palestinian blood, on the pretext of seeking to end the fighting. What Al-Qadhdhafi is actually doing is pouring oil on the fire and putting obstacles in the way of sincere Syrian efforts to bring an end to the war imposed on Amal.

The purpose of this plot, which originated in the Palestinian camps, is to complete the plan to make the south an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, a plan that began with the kidnapping of Imam al-Sadr and his two companions.

The Amal Movement sees no difference between 'Arafat and Al-Qadhdhafi when it comes to principles and stands. They are both responsible for what is currently going on in Lebanon. The Amal Movement will continue the struggle to regain the homeland's freedom and sovereignty and to restore the freedom of its leader [Imam Musa al-Sadr].

Paper Links Beirut Chemicals Factory With Iraq

LD011010 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, 30 Nov (JANA) — The newspaper *Al-Ghad al-Dimuqrati*, organ of the Iraqi Democratic Grouping [Al-Tajammu' al-Dimuqrati al-'Iraqi] has uncovered suspicious ties between Saddam's fascist Ba'thist regime and the family of Sham'un, a leading member of the isolationist front in Lebanon.

The paper said an explosion that took place in a factory in East Beirut has exposed a major scandal because the factory was producing chemical weapons for the fascist Ba'thist regime in Iraq. [passage omitted]

The paper said the explosion, which took place in Beirut not long ago and which was reported by the media as only an explosion in a workshop, poisoned several workers and citizens. *Al-Ghad al-Dimuqrati* said: "Despite the news blackout on the incident, reports revealed that the location of the incident was in fact a factory making chemical bombs for the fascist Ba'thist regime. This prompted the Lebanese Ministry of Justice to investigate the matter. This revealed that the factory has been operating for many years and that chemical materials have been shipped to the fascist Iraqi Ba'thist regime from the port of Beirut."

Amal Executes Man Accused of Car Bomb Attacks

NC011454 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Beirut, Dec 1 (AFP) — Amal Shi'ite militia have publicly executed a 30-year old Lebanese Shi'ite accused of two car bomb attacks which killed eight people and injured 45 in a Shi'ite suburb of Beirut in February 1985.

Muhammad 'Ali Jawad, wrapped in a white sheet, was put before a masked firing squad on Sunday on the site of one of the explosions, witnessed by journalists and by a crowd of some 500 chanting "Allah is great".

In a communique, Amal said the condemned man, who lived in a Christian district of Beirut, had admitted that the Lebanese Forces Christian militia had put him up to carrying out the attacks.

It was the third public execution carried out by Amal in five months. Last July, the movement executed a Lebanese Sunni-Moslem accused of a car bomb attack in Moslem-dominated West Beirut, and a man accused of killing four members of a family in a dispute over drinking water.

Minister Urged to End Radio's Official Status

NC020832 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] In view of the fact that Al-Sana'i' [Beirut domestic] radio continues to concoct news and broadcasts commentaries damaging to national interests and unity, and beneficial only to the cause of partition, information circles have begun to question the role of Information Minister Joseph Skaf in this phenomenon. These circles attribute Skaf's inaction on this matter either to his collaborationwith parties manipulated from abroad or to his indifference to this critical national issue.

The same information circles reiterate their demand that Minister Skaf assume his responsibility and abolish the official status of the [state-run] Al-Sana'i' radio. This station is controlled by the remnants of [Minister Nabih] Birri's followers. Minister Skaf is called upon to make up his mind whether he wants to collaborate with subversive foreign parties or behave in accordance with Lebanon's national interests and his constitutional responsibilities as minister of information.

General Strike Observed; No Papers Published

NC020739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The general strike observed in all parts of Lebanon today in protest against extortion and the high cost of living is having a considerable effect on political activity and efforts to end the camps fighting, among other issues. [passage omitted]

Lebanese newspapers will not appear today, due to the strike. They will come out tomorrow as usual.

Al-Shar' Comments on Arms Deal, Israeli Role

JN020650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2125 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the plan recently drawn up in Washington aimed to wage a psychological war and media campaign against Syria is more dangerous than an armed aggression against it. He added: However, London's and Washington's attempts and dreams to isolate Syria or change its principled policy for liberation and regaining usurped rights have collapsed.

In an interview published today in the UAE paper *Al-Khalij*, Faruq al-Shar' said: In the heat of the campaign of fabrication and deception against Syria in the world, Washington and London have forgotten that honest people in the world believe only honest people.

Asked about the European and U.S. measures against Syria, Faruq al-Shar' said: These measures have no practical value because Syria does not get arms from Western states. Restrictions on the movements of Syrians in European states and the United States are also applied to all Arabs and not only to Syrians.

He added: The idea of suspending visits by senior officials to and from to Syria is ridiculous and is directed against European states and not against Syrian officials who constantly feel embarrassed for being unable to accept invitations extended to them by their European counterparts because of the many visits to Damascus by officials from various parts of the world.

Answering a question on the best practical way to confront the anti-Syrian U.S. and British stand, Faruq al-Shar' said: The best way to confront such a stand can be summarized in what President Hafiz al-Asad said in his historic speech to the 21st conference of the General Trade Unions Federation, which is that they are undoubtedly out of their minds if they imagine that despite all their experiences with us we will capitulate.

In reply to a question on news agency reports that the United States supplied Iran with arms and on Israel's role in the matter, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: Iran is an important state in the region. It is only natural for the United States to try to desperately attempt to establish relations with Iran and to use all moral as well as immoral means to realize this objective. He added: Zionism, which is fully aware of the extent of the Iranian revolution's hostility, has sought and will continue to seek any secret link with Iran. Any talk about an alleged Israeli role in this deal despite the Iranian officials' categorical denial is not aimed at deceiving the Israelis because the Israelis are certain of their hostility to the Iranian revolution and the hostility of the Iranian revolution to them, but is aimed at deceiving Arabs and Muslims and warning them against establishing good relations with Iran by casting doubts about the Iranian revolution's slogans about the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine.

Asked about the shock felt by some Arab governments with regard to U.S. credibility in the region, Faruq al-Shar' said: We in Syria never believed that the United States has credibility with the Arabs. We repeatedly said that the United States has no friend or ally in the region other than the Zionist entity. The United States cares only for its interests and the interests of its ally, Israel. The attainment of U.S. interests was not always sought through moral and principled means. In any case, we hope that the Arab states that have now discovered the United States' lack of credibility will pursue their policies in the future on the basis of that belief.

Asked about Syria's stand on convening the Arab summit and its agenda, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: President Hafiz al-Asad has informed the Arab League secretary general and the Algerian foreign minister of Syria's agreement to convening the ordinary Arab summit and wished it success, and emphasized to them that Syria will make every possible effort to insure its success and to insure that it will result in genuine Arab solidarity in confronting all major challenges foremost among which are Zionist and imperialist challenges. As for the summit's agenda it will be determined and agreed upon through consultations.

Asked about Syria's stand on the camps war, Faruq al-Shar' replied: Continuous meetings and discussions are being held in Damascus among the Palestinian National Salvation Front, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and Amal to put an end to the camps war. It is regrettable that one of the Palestinian parties — which is desperately seeking to negotiate with the Israeli enemy in Bucharest and elsewhere — is the same party that insists on carrying arms against the nationalist Lebanese.

The foreign minister asked: Was Maghdushah under Israeli occupation or under the control of the agent Lahd army when 'Arafat's group tried to occupy it?

Answering a question on President Hafiz al-Asad's call for the formation of an international committee to combat terrorism Foreign Minister al-Shar' declared: When the president proposed the formation of an international committee that could be an Arab-European committee or an Arab-European-U.S.-Soviet committee to define the meaning of terrorism and the line that separates it from the struggle of peoples to liberate their territory, he was posing a great challenge to London and Washington and exposing the falsehood of their claims and facing them with two options: Either London and Washington should accept the formation of such a committee, or they should silence their hostile media from now on.

Faruq al-Shar' added: In any case Syria will continue as always to uphold the nation's rights and the honest defender of the Arabs' national rights, whatever the sacrifices. We firmly believe that the line of struggle pursued by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is the only path available to us as Arabs to regain our occupied territory and usurped rights.

Press on U.S.-UK-Israeli 'Pressure' on FRG

JN290744 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The FRG and the Dangers of Its Embroilment in the Campaign of Deception Against Syria," *Al-Thawrah* says: It is clear that the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria, which Britain is spearheading, is trying to drag in Western European countries. Washington, London, and Tel Aviv exerted varying pressure on Western European countries during the Luxembourg and London meetings. These pressures were disclosed in world newspapers as well as in statements by officials of Western European countries, who frankly refused to link terrorism with the Arabs. Some of them even exposed the role of the Mosad in concocting plots in collusion with British intelligence and the CIA to brand the Arabs with the stigma of terrorism, to tarnish the struggle of the Arab liberation movement and to confuse the meaning of resistance and national resistance on one hand with the meaning of terrorism on the other.

Al-Thawrah adds: It is really regrettable to see some Western European countries, particularly the FRG, dragged — through U.S. and British pressure — into a slanderous campaign against Syria and the Arab nation considering all the harm that could be done to FRG interests and relations with the Arab nation because of this unjustifiable stand — this despite the fact that FRG officials have on many occasions affirmed their concern to develop these relations with Syria and the Arab nation.

Al-Thawrah continues: As Syria reacts to the FRG Government's unjustifiable measures, it is in fact taking fair and logical measures. Syria can only understand the FRG Government's measures as embroilment in the rancorous colonialist-Zionist campaign to which the region is being subjected to peddle separate deals and liquidatory solutions and to impose capitulation on the Arabs. Confronting this hostile scheme is a national and pan-Arab mission whose responsibility must be shouldered by Syria and the Arab masses to expose the campaign of slanders, deception, and threats, and consequently, to abort the hostile schemes.

Al-Thawrah concludes: Those who succumbed to U.S., British, and Zionist pressures must champion the interests of their countries and listen to the logic of truth and rights because the interests of Western European countries lie in their cordial and good relations with the Arab countries, not in their embroilment in the schemes of aggression and U.S.-Israeli hegemony.

In its editorial today, *Tishrin* deals with the seriousness of the FRG decision, affirming that the FRG's embroilement in the British-U.S. campaign of slanders and deception against Syria came through pressure from Washington. *Tishrin* says: The U.S. Administration is now in a state of real imbalance and could not withstand another failure in its losing battles. This administration has been exposed in Europe, in NATO, and in the world. It has even lost confidence in the United States itself. We wonder how it looks outside the United States. As it could not withstand a new shock, the FRG decision shows that the United States still holds its European positions.

Tishrin concludes: Because Syria rejects all forms of submission and appeasement and because they want us to succumb — although the distance between Syria and capitulation is as far as the distance that separates them from the planets which they have not yet reached nor will they for scores of years — they are insane if they think that we will submit. We understand the reason for the grudge they hold against Syria; we understand the dangers directed at Syria, and we also understand the reason for igniting fires around Syria, beginning with the economic war; the various political, military, and economic pressures; and the situation in Lebanon with the cheap 'Arafat and the dirty role he is playing even if it leads to the liquidation of the Palestinian people in Lebanon to satisfy America and prove his good intentions. We can say that military aggression might be one of the tools to remove the Syrian stumbling block. They will be completely mistaken if they imagine that they can begin any aggression without paying a very high price. They know Syria, and they will know it even better if their stupidity leads them to take the risk and launch aggression or to play with fire.

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jallud

Lebanon Cease-Fire Set

LD272356 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Nov 86

[Text] The JANA reporter in Damascus has learned that as a result of efforts by the Great Jamahiriyah through the meetings and intensive contacts by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and as a result of the meetings and intensive contacts between the Lebanese patriotic forces and the Palestinian National Salvation Front, a comprehensive agreement has been reached. It embraces a comprehensive cease-fire which begins at 1500 today, Friday, in the month November. Withdrawal of Palestinian forces from east of Sidon to their positions inside the camps will take place at 1800 the same day. Complete withdrawal will be completed at 0600 Saturday. The forces of Amal gangs would return to their positions east of Sidon at 0600 the same day.

Internal security forces will supervise the cease-fire and the withdrawal, and hand over positions to what was the situation before the month of October 1986.

Supplies and ambulance vehicles will be given the opportunity to enter Al-Rashidiyah to give first aid to the wounded 2 hours after the return of the forces of Amal Shi'ite gangs to their positions.

Joint patriotic Lebanese forces will provide security over the coastal road from Beirut to the south in order to guarantee freedom of movement to Sidon.

The question of Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila will be tackled next Sunday, and the siege of Al-Rashidiyah will be lifted on the same day.

A meeting will be held in Damascus on Monday 1 of December to discuss the militant patriotic Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

Meets With Khaddam

LD301549 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Damascus, Al-Harth 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Staff Major 'Abd al-Sallam Jallud met this morning in Damascus with Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Meets With Palestinian Groups

LD302210 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1546 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Damascus, 30 Nov (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud is making continuous and intensive efforts to stop Arab bloodshed in the genocidal war the Shi'ite gangs of despair [reference to Amal Movement] are waging against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Staff Major Jallud this morning met with Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice president, to consolidate the Libyan-Syrian efforts to bring about a cease-fire on a practical and effective basis.

Staff Major Jallud also met this morning with various Palestinian organizations in the PNSF [Palestine National Salvation Front] in order to bring about a total halt to the current fighting in southern Lebanon, fighting that is escalating by the hour. Major Jallud had condemned this war, describing it as a fire that is destroying all of us at a time when we should all be fighting in one trench against the Zionist enemy. These battles, he added, are aimed at our religion and nationalism. Real victory is that which is achieved against the Zionists — in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

He stressed that those who benefit from these battles are the United States, the Zionists, 'Arafat, and the advocates of capitulation in the Arab world.

Received by Al-Asad

JN301918 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command in Libya, at 1730 today. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting.

The development of the situation in the Arab arena and issues of common concern were discussed during the meeting.

Iranian Envoy, Official Confer With Khaddam

LD020645 Tehran IRNA in English 0619 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 2, IRNA — The Iranian ambassador to Syria, Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, here Monday conferred with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on ways to stop camp war in Lebanon.

Meanwhile the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, currently visiting Syria, met with the members of the Executive Committee of Lebanese Ulema Society at Iran's Embassy in Damascus.

The two sides discussed issues concerning camp war and solutions to end the battle.

Reportage, Commentary on Iranian Arms Deal

U.S. Requests Official Cooperation

TA020522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The U.S. Justice Department has officially asked Israel to cooperate with the investigation into the arms deals with Iran. It requests that U.S. investigators be allowed to collect information about the affair and about the transfer of funds to the Nicaraguan rebels. This has been learned by our correspondent in Washington, Shim'on Schiffer, from sources close to the investigation.

Last night, the White House spokesman refused to reply to our correspondent's question as to which country President Reagan was referring to when he said that another country — not the United States — had transferred the funds to the Nicaraguan rebels. According to another version, the White House spokesman confirmed that Israel is the country in question.

Rabin Collecting Documents

TA020527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered that all the documents pertaining to the supply of arms to Iran be transferred to his office. This has been learned by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. A senior source in the Defense Ministry said this was not an internal investigation but rather an effort to collect all the documents and dossiers pertaining to the deal in order to ascertain what happened. The source added that the Defense Ministry has not yet received any notice about the arrival of a U.S. investigatory team or about the intention to summon Israeli officials for interrogation.

However, a senior Defense Ministry official told our correspondent that the possibility should not be ruled out that the material being gathered by Minister Rabin may be used to prepare an official, documented Israeli version.

Our military correspondent has learned that those who dealt with the affair of the arms shipments to Iran did not coordinate their activities with the head of the department in charge of defense exports. The reason for his circumvention has not been disclosed.

Shamir: No Investigation

TA020535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel would cooperate with the U.S. investigators probing the transfer of U.S. weapons to Iran but would not conduct its own investigation. He made this statement during a meeting with the president of the B'nai B'rith organization, Seymour Reich. The prime minister said that there is nothing to investigate in Israel. The prime minister acknowledged that Israel shipped arms to Iran in an effort to free U.S. hostages held in Lebanon. Shamir repeated that Israel had nothing to do with the contras.

Shamir Briefs Cabinet

TA301528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] For the first time the prime minister today briefed the Cabinet plenum on the transfer of arms to Iran. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the foreign and defense ministers added additional information and clarification. The briefing was given within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein today at noon issued an announcement saying that anyone relying on unidentified sources with regard to the Iran arms issue is relying on unfounded and baseless information.

Further on Cabinet Briefing

TA301528 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Excerpt] In the weekly Cabinet session today the prime minister reviewed the issue of the arms transfers to Iran. The foreign and defense minister provided additional details and ministers posed questions, but no real discussion was held. This part of the meeting was held in the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, and that is why we cannot furnish any further details. We can only tell you what we were told by ministers emerging from the Cabinet session who said that, all in all, they did not hear in the hall anything in addition to what they have read in both the local and foreign press.

No high-level contacts have yet been held between Washington and Jerusalem on this affair.

In the United States, the Israeli aspect of it is mainly dealt with by the press. The ambassador in Washington, Me'ir Rosenne, conferred with Secretary of State George Shultz on Friday but the two key words, Iran and the contras, were not all mentioned.

Rosenne conveyed to Shultz a general message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir regarding the peace process in the wake of a message on the issue Shamir had received from the U.S. secretary of state about 3 weeks ago. Also the talk on this political issue was described by sources in Jerusalem as not operational.

Senior sources in Jerusalem disclosed today that during the contacts preceding the arms deals, Robert McFarlane made it plain to his Israeli interlocutors that the appeal to Israel to transfer the arms and military equipment had been made with President Reagan's approval and Secretary of State George Shultz' knowledge.

It seems that Israel will use this argument if and when it is asked for explanations by the commissions of inquiry set up by the Congress and administration. [passage omitted]

Peres Interview

TA271938 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 86

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Marcelle Sagiv and political correspondent Me'ir Kohen on the Arabic-language "Meeting" program — live, in Hebrew, in the Jerusalem television studio]

[Text] [Sagiv] Mr Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, beyond the considerations which were taken into account on the matter of arms transfers to Iran, it seems to me that there is a simple question which many ask: How is it that Israel is aiding the Khomeyni regime, which is known as an extremely anti-Jewish regime that supports terror?

[Peres] The question is good, but it is not correctly formulated.

[Sagiv] Help me to correctly formulate it then.

[Peres] Willingly. I heard President Reagan on the issue. He explained that one of the goals was to change and not support the regime in Iran. Without a doubt there is a succession struggle in Iran. Our criticism is of Khomeyni and our concern relates to what will come after Khomeyni. I promise you life will continue after Khomeyni as well.

[Sagiv] However, the arms consignments were intended for the present regime, and in this fight Khomeyni could have been the victor. Are we not aiding his regime?

[Peres] I do not think so. First, we did not send but aided in the transfer of arms. What were involved here were very small, almost symbolic, amounts of arms. Israel is not interfering and will not interfere in the Iraq-Iran war and, in my opinion, there were two aspects here: You are talking about the current regime. What is the current regime? How do you know it is a unified regime? Perhaps there are different groups within the current regime. Perhaps — and I'm asking this only as a question — there was an attempt to establish a link with another group. However, there is another problem, as I see it, which I am not hiding, and this is the matter of the hostages. When no military option exists to release hostages, other means are sought. I know there is sometimes an undeniable contradiction between the war against terrorism and the saving of lives. We also released very many terrorists even though this contradicted our interests. And who says that a terrorist is more dangerous than arms?

[Kohen] Mr Peres, the criticism voiced in the Knesset yesterday was directed at the fact that the decision on arms shipments to Iran was made by a limited forum, without the government or at least the Inner Cabinet, being informed. We heard the views of Minister Weizman and the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the issue. How do you regard this criticism?

[Peres] I do not accept it. I think that in every country there are things that are secret. On occasion a country can leave a decision to one person, for example, to the commander of a brigade or the commander of a battalion, when the issue involves an operation, when it involves the lives of people — and in this case lives were involved; it involved, among other things, hostages. In addition, it is not our secret or only our secret; it is another country's secret. According to the rules affecting the government on the transfer of arms or the sale of arms, three ministers are responsible: the prime minister, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, and the defense minister. There was never any question that these three people are the ones to decide.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, criticism was also voiced by a member of your party, Knesset Member Abba Eban, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who said that the committee will hold another meeting on Tuesday during which he will demand that the committee be given information. He also claims that it is inconceivable that decisions should be made without being brought to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's attention.

[Peres] I do not think so. The government decides and then reports to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. There is a distinction between the Knesset and the government. In the division of parliamentary authority, too, the government is the executive branch while the Knesset is the legislative as well as the oversight branch. In order for the Knesset to oversee, the government must announce its decisions post factum. I do not accept Mr Eban's criticism. He confused two things that have nothing to do with each other. For example, he said that a senior official revealed the information. It was not a senior official; it was a senior gossip.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, a demand has been made that an inquiry commission be set up....

[Peres, interrupting] By whom?

[Kohen].... a parliamentary inquiry commission to investigate the matter. What is your view on this?

[Peres] Look, there is an opposition that is seeking a job.

[Kohen] This is also Minister Sharon's view on the issue.

[Peres] How do you know? I have not heard this from Minister Sharon in any forum. But even if this were so, so what? In any event, in a parliamentary regime the minority does not supervise the majority; the majority decides. It is the obligation of the majority, and this is also why a majority is created.

[Sagiv] What happens when it turns out that the decisions that were made in the forum which you say has the authority were erroneous?

[Peres] They must be proven erroneous. I do not think that they were erroneous. Who determines whether they are erroneous or not? Is there some almighty being? Is there some chief rabbi? All the time that there is an operative decision, this is the only way to prove that it is correct.

[Sagiv] Are you certain today that the majority supports the decision that was reached and implemented, namely, to transfer arms to Iran?

[Peres] I have no doubt. And it is a fact that no proposal to set up an inquiry commission was adopted. It is a fact that my suggestion that the matter be transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was accepted.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, is it not feared that this affair will affect U.S. relations with moderate Arab countries in the region, and thereby hinder the peace process? And did you perhaps also mention this in a message to President Mubarak?

[Peres] I would like to tell you that I do not accept this entire view whereby the Arabs are free to do whatever they like while we have to conduct a policy acceptable to the Arabs. Anchored at the port of Aqaba are 40 or 50 ships carrying arms to Iraq. These arms pass by only meters from our border. Does this mean we are in favor of the supply of arms to Iraq? Is not the PLO in Iraq? Are the Iraqis not threatening us with war? Are the Iraqis not using gas? Should Jordan ask permission to do what it is doing? Should Jordan only stipulate a condition for negotiations with us? Each conducts his own policy, and our policy involves the search for peace, without conditions.

[Kohen] Do you accept the distinction that Minister Weizman made with regard to the chances of Israel holding a dialogue with the Sunnis as opposed to the Shi'ites in the Muslim world?
[Peres] No. I hope we will live in peace both with the Sunnis and the Shi'ites. We do not rely on the difference between them, but rather on the chance to live with the Sunnis, the Shi'ites, the Christians, the Druze together. There is no such thing as half a peace; there is no peace with half the world. We are seriously striving to reach peace with everyone.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, with your permission, let us return to what is happening in the United States....
[Peres, interrupting] That does not mean that I support the fundamentalists, not even Jewish fundamentalists or in general, I would say fanatics.

[Sagiv] The subject, as you know, is causing an uproar in the United States. You might say that this is not our business, but whether we like it or not we are connected with the affair. The question is: In the whole chain of events, could it not have been possible to prevent this situation whereby Israel is involved in affairs which are so criticized in the United States?
[Peres] Who told you that Israel has been criticized? Today there was an interview with a very distinguished Jew, Morris Abrahams, who is the president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in which he says the contrary. It is possible that the Americans will learn from this affair that Israel is an ally that can be depended upon, even in the most delicate matters. I would like to say that the same criticism can also be leveled at Mrs Thatcher for having permitted U.S. planes to take off in the operation against Libya. Of course, one can also be neutral. You have to decide. However, one must also take into account that if we are neutral, others will be neutral toward us. What criticism? I would like life to be simple, to be made of perfume instead of water, and down instead of earth. I would agree to this, but life is not like this. Life is very complex and full of contradictions. The nation has to decide. We endlessly ask things of America which also get America entangled.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, were you in contact with U.S. Administration leaders over the past few days? How did they view the official Israeli statement?
[Peres] On Sunday evening, prior to the issuing of the statement, I spoke on the telephone with Mr Meese, the U.S. attorney general. I informed him of the contents of the statement. He greatly appreciated the fact that I informed him in advance. I also had a very cordial conversation with Secretary of State Shultz.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, with your permission, let us move on to another subject.
[Peres] Do not be so concerned. I feel that you are very concerned. Look, one can also emerge better off from such a test. Our conscience is clean; our hands are clean. We did not do what we did for money. We did not do it to gain sort of military or strategic advantage. We understand the dilemma that the United States was facing. We did it out of friendship, bone fide, for humanitarian reasons. Someone asked me yesterday what was gained. In my opinion, if three hostages were released, that is a gain in the humanitarian sphere.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, permit me to tell you that if there is room for concern then perhaps it is not our concern that is important, but rather whether you are concerned, whether U.S. public opinion is concerned. Permit me also to refer to the subject of contradictions. I also listened to your remarks in the Knesset. Contradictions can sometimes be explained. The question is whether these contradictions can be explained in such a way that will be accepted by the majority of people and public opinion.
[Peres] I have no doubts about this.

[Sagiv] The question here is: How can one talk on behalf of morality or claim that we are clean morally-speaking when on the matter of the prisoner exchange it is possible that those terrorists who take hostages were actually helped by what he did?
[Peres] Were this the only thing, you would be correct. However, we are also striking out at terrorism. Were this the only action, I could understand. Usually, however, for 365 days a year, we fight terrorism. There is no doubt that there are exceptions, and morally speaking, one exception involves the saving of life. I said in the Knesset yesterday, and I repeat now: I greatly respect a president who has 230 million citizens and who, when one or two citizens are in distress does not forget them. This is part of the true values of a democratic regime, both there and here.

[Sagiv] In connection with this affair, there was another report stating that you met with the Saudi millionaire, Khashoggi, in New York....
[Peres, interrupting] When?

[Sagiv] Approximately 2 years ago.
[Peres] According to this report, this was before the whole affair with Iran.

[Sagiv] Before the affair, but the Iran issue existed. Did you discuss the issue of Iran?
[Peres] No, no. There was no discussion of Iran, if we met at all.

[Sagiv] Did you discuss the Middle East issue?
[Peres] If I were in your shoes, I would think that that was certainly the subject.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, the Inner Cabinet convened yesterday to discuss the various aspects of this affair. What in your opinion are the conclusions, implications? What are the rules for arms assistance to different countries?
[Peres] Usually, in the sale of arms — and we did not sell arms; you are constantly using the wrong term; we helped in the transfer of arms; one should also be accurate on this point — usually I believe that in the sale of arms, too, one should pay

attention to the economic aspect but also not ignore the moral aspect. And matters are frequently quite complex. I do not believe that the world runs according to simplistic rules. Were this the case, I would suggest that every person be given rules of behavior every day from morning to night. There is no such thing. Each case must be discussed in its entirety in accordance with the values in which we believe.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, we will nevertheless move on to another subject. Perhaps it will also bring us back to this issue, but the subject is our relations with Egypt and the peace process. Mr Shahal recently visited Cairo and met with President Mubarak. He transmitted messages from you and Mr Shamir, and brought messages back. Is the subject the peace process, or is it, once more, Iran?
[Peres] The peace process unequivocally. In my opinion, we have reached a very good level of dialogue with President Mubarak. President Mubarak also has other problems, such as Egypt's economy, although he believes — as I, too, believe — that he can overcome it. However, the main issue in our messages was the continuation of the peace process, not including, of course, those subjects which Minister Shahal is directly responsible for.

[Sagiv] On the subject of the peace process, is there one particular issue being focused on at the moment? For example, the Palestinian representation or the international conference? Where do things stand right now?
[Peres] Yes, the main issues have arisen in general. Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Israel all believe that there is no alternative to direct negotiations between us. However, the Jordanians — and the Egyptians, and I believe the Moroccans, too — would like an international conference. We agree to this. We are even in agreement on the nature of the conference. I will not go into all the details, but the main factor is that the conference would not have the power to impose anything. That is, I am sure that neither Egypt, nor Jordan, nor Israel will agree to Russians and Americans imposing a solution on us. This we must find on our own. There is no imposed solution.

[Sagiv] What purpose, then, would the conference serve if it has no authority?
[Peres] The conference would contribute by creating a propitious atmosphere for a meeting between parties that have never met. It would provide the framework, it would provide the assistance, and perhaps the Arabs also think it would provide the balance. In any case, it is their demand, not ours. I, incidentally, think that we can do without an international conference. In the wake of this, the question arose as to what the rules of this conference would be. And in order to determine the rules, a proposal was raised to set up a preparatory committee. King Husayn said that a preparatory committee could be of various natures. Basically, it could comprise only the parties in the region, namely, let us say, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinians, and perhaps Morocco if it wants; or the five permanent members of the Security Council could also be included in the preparatory conference. Actually, if they want to include the five permanent members of the Security Council, then it is no longer a preparatory conference, it is a full-fledged conference. Another proposal was raised which, in my opinion, is totally ridiculous. This proposal suggested that the preparations for the conference be carried out solely by the five Security Council members.

[Sagiv] Without the countries in the Middle East.
[Peres] Without these countries. An analogous situation would be a wedding to which neither the bride nor the groom was invited, but to which the five in-laws who do not agree among themselves and who do not agree to the wedding either are invited. What will emerge from this? It is a pity to waste the time.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, you mentioned three Arab countries — Egypt, Morocco, Jordan — that in principle agree to take part in an international conference. What is the factor that is holding up the conference? Could you mention any progress in contacts with Jordan on this issue?
[Peres] What is holding up the convening of the conference and direct negotiations are certain differences of opinion over the rules according to which the international conference would operate. There are a number of rules on which all are in agreement. There are several rules which still remain in dispute.

[Kohen] Sir, are you prepared to specify those issues which are still under dispute?
[Peres] First, regarding the participation of those countries which do not have diplomatic relations with one of the sides — for us this means the USSR and China, but for the Syrians this means Britain — what should be done about them? Second, who will represent the Palestinians? What will be the criteria for representing the Palestinians? Third, what if the conference is deadlocked? These are the three questions that should be answered.

[Sagiv] Permit me to return to the question of who will represent the Palestinians: Is there a chance of reaching an agreement on this matter?
[Peres] I used the term authentic Palestinians. What I meant is that we will not rule out any single Palestinian due to his views or positions, but we will rule out anyone who is carrying a pistol or a knife. Namely, anybody can say anything he pleases, but nobody can kill the enemy.

[Kohen] Following the Alexandria summit, Mr Peres, can you point to any progress, any change in relations between Egypt and Israel?
[Peres] Definitely yes. First, the energy and infrastructure minister has just returned from Egypt. There was an exchange of messages. I believe there was also a change in the tone of the communications media in both countries. This takes time of course, but I see an overall improvement. I also see that Egypt is more prepared to act on the peace process and other issues.

[Sagiv] Is there a chance of holding additional meetings between you and President Mubarak and between Mr Shamir and President Mubarak?
[Peres] This question should be addressed to President Mubarak.

[Sagiv] Initiatives can also be launched by Israel.
[Peres] You did not ask me about an initiative but about a meeting. I cannot answer you on this matter, but I surely foresee additional meetings in the future.

[Kohen] If possible, can you, Mr Peres, specify what was in President Mubarak's messages?
[Peres] No, I cannot go into detail. It is not that I like quiet diplomacy, but when you put a title on anything, any process

which is just beginning, it gets nipped in the bud, since a process needs to be checked out. If you publicize a process you at once attract all possible opposition. Since I admit that there are wiser people in the communications media than among the statesmen, these people kill us off; we have no chance of making progress.

[Sagiv] Is it impossible to publicize a process and gain all possible support?
[Peres] Not at the beginning; the process, after all, pertains to the Arab side and not only us. After all, we are not conducting negotiations only with ourselves. If this were a purely internal matter, I would not see any reason for not publicizing everything. The trouble is that we have an Arab world around us with different views, and if a process is publicized prematurely, its continuation is jepardized.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, let us go over to another subject. Over the last 2 weeks we have witnessed a wave of rioting in Jerusalem. How do you view the future of relations between the two peoples in this city?
[Peres] This matter is serious and I am very much concerned. I hope that these incidents will not recur. Let me say clearly: Peaceful coexistence should definitely be maintained. Responsibility is shouldered by the majority, and I view ourselves as responsible, first and foremost, for seeing law, safety, and peace maintained for every Jerusalem resident, whether Jew or Arab, whether Muslim or Christian. I believe it is in all citizens' interests to prevent violence from pervading our lives like a knife in the stomach, threatening the survival of the body. Let me add my conviction that the decisive majority of the Jerusalem residents, Jews and Arabs alike, are indeed interested in this. I think that the decisive majority should prevent a group of fanatics or knife-wielders, whether on the Jewish or the Arab side — fanatics on the one side and knife-wielders on the other — from trying to destroy the most dramatic and exciting attempt being made in the Middle East for an enlightened existence among different faiths and different peoples.

[Sagiv] Mr Peres, you must have heard that the Knesset speaker this week said that acts of violence by certain residents toward East Jerusalem Arab citizens constitute perhaps the beginning of disintegration in Israeli society. Are you as concerned at this?
[Peres] I do not at all like this kind of generalization. I am not a prophet, nor do I think this must lead to disintegration. No, if this is what the Knesset speaker said, I do not agree with it. I believe this is a grave phenomenon but a surmountable one. The decisive majority of the Jerusalem residents should be enlisted in the effort to maintain Jerusalem as a city of peace, as a city sacred to the three faiths, as a city which displays coexistence among different peoples.

[Kohen] Mr Peres, have the incidents we witnessed caused damage to Jerusalem's status as well as to the image of the State of Israel? Practically speaking, what is the government doing on the subject?
[Peres] I assume this has caused damage, and the question is whether this damage is reparable or not. The government should act on many levels, first in addressing the public: We should have a Jerusalem without knives, a Jerusalem without violence and blood. Later, in my opinion, the government should also use the necessary forces, and there was indeed a reinforcing of such forces during the incidents. Also, the culprits should be brought to trial without compassion and regardless of who they are. There is no difference between Jewish and Arab crime; there is only crime. A government should fight crime with all forces and measures at its disposal.

Let me comment here: Marcelle earlier asked me about the Knesset speaker's comments. To my great regret, in every city nowadays there are occasional outbursts of violence. Urbanization, life in the city, apparently occasionally triggers the eruption of agression which should be prevented and overcome.

[Sagiv] Do you believe though that it will be possible to cope with these phenomena shortly?
[Peres] I hope so, since this is the interest and desire of most people. This is also the resolute opinion of the government. Luckily, we also have an excellent mayor who conducts himself with a great deal of wisdom, responsibility, and courage. I am referring to Teddy Kollek, of course. The city which he runs is very lucky, I believe.

Contra Connection Not Known

TA301119 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Senior Israeli officials are confident that Israel's role in the Iran arms affair will recede from the headlines in coming days. But they expect the reverberations to continue to shake the Reagan administration with even greater intensity during this week.

These officials are concerned about the consequences of the in-depth investigation currently under way, especially regarding potential findings on the personal roles of President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, both close friends of Israel, in the attempt to circumvent Congress in supplying aid to the contras from the proceeds of the arms sale to Iran.

With regard to Israel's role it was made clear to *The Jerusalem Post* by a top level source that:

— Israel has assumed beyond doubt that it was carrying out the wishes of the president on the arms sale.
— Israel had absolutely no knowledge that the money deposited in a Swiss bank account by the Iranians was being transferred to the contras. It learnt about the development only hours before the news became public.
— No monies from the deal came through Israel.

The Israeli second-echelon officials (David Kimche, then director-general of the Foreign Ministry, and 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's adviser on terror) carried out their duties according to ministeral guidelines and took no private initiatives.

The source further told *The Post* that while it was still unclear whether the Israeli principals would be questioned by the U.S. special commission investigating the affair, Israel would cooperate fully "since it had nothing to hide, and had acted within the framework of the special relationship that governs relations between the two countries."

It was made clear to *The Post* that Israel's cooperation was not "renegade, or outside the formal framework" of U.S.-Israel relations, but "consistent with administration policy directives and fully coordinated with all pertinent levels of the administration." The investigation would only confirm these claims, the source said.

The Post was given specific information about the evolution of the 1986 arms sale to Iran, including dates of inter-governmental meetings on the subject and the level of these meetings, and was told that "Israel heard of the transfer of monies to the contras less than a day before the news was made public."

Had Israeli policy-makers known of the contra connection, its attitude on the sale of anti-aircraft missiles, anti-armour missiles and spare parts to Iran would have been different, the sources said.

"Israel, so dependent on the goodwill of Congress for its aid package, special allocations for the Lavi project and a dozen other issues," would not have jeopardized its relations with Congress by being party to an attempt to circumvent it, the source said.

"While there was much to be gained in the tactical sense from going ahead with the administration's proposal, we would not have done this at the risk of our excellent relations with the incumbent Congress," *The Post* was told.

On the question of who originally came up with the idea of supplying weapons to Iran in return for the release of American hostages being held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite terrorists, a senior source said that "who proposed the idea is not relevant now. What is relevant is that when a senior administration official approaches you with a detailed outline for action, you assume that he is acting on the authority of the president."

"I can guarantee you," the source concluded, "that a colonel in the National Security Council (Oliver North) does not run American foreign policy by himself. The thought is too absurd to contemplate."

Shamir Adviser Questioned

TA301156 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Nov 86 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's antiterrorism adviser, underwent a long debriefing last week on the arms deals with Iran and the bank account in Switzerland which belongs to the contra underground. Over the last few days Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, and Yitzhaq Rabin have been checking all aspects of the Iranian affair and the way it was conducted.

Nir firmly denied any knowledge of the Swiss bank account. According to Nir, he had nothing to do with the financial matters between the two countries.

Nir is still serving as the prime minister's antiterrorism adviser, senior government sources reported.

A decision on Nir's dismissal has not yet been made on the senior political level, despite reports in *The Washington Post* and in other international papers. The reason is that Shamir is afraid that Nir's dismissal would be tantamount to Israel's confession of responsibility for the Iranian connection.

According to the assessment of political sources Nir will not be replaced before the end of the U.S. investigation into the affair. It was reported from Shamir's office that, according to the agreement with Shim'on Peres, Shamir may replace 'Amiram Nir any time he wishes to do so. Shamir intends to appoint to the position a person with a clear military past.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington received guidelines for its information campaign, according to which Israel's involvement in the affair began at the request of Robert McFarlane, former national security adviser. Israel's information continues to emphasize that Israel had nothing to do with the Swiss bank account and that it did not know about it.

Appearances by senior U.S. Administration officials in special television programs arouse fears in Israel of possible additional disclosures that may harm Israel's status. [passage omitted]

Nimrodi Interview

TA300715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Interview with weapons dealer Ya'aqov Nimrodi by program moderator David Grossman — live via telephone]

[Text][Grossman] A new name has popped up on the stage of the weapons deal with Iran: Ya'aqov Nimrodi, an Israeli businessman who lives in London. This morning he is in Israel, and we have him on the other end of the telephone line. Good morning, Mr Nimrodi.
[Nimrodi] Good morning.

[Grossman] Mr Nimrodi, in what way were you involved in the attempt to release U.S. hostages in Lebanon?
[Nimrodi] Look, I think the most simple thing is to read the statement I prepared. Okay?

[Grossman] I prefer to ask you questions so that we can hear some more nuances.

[Nimrodi] Okay, but first let me read the statement, then you can ask me questions. I want to state that since the fall of the Iranian shah and the rise of Khomeynism I have not made even one tiny deal with Iran, neither directly nor indirectly. Let me repeat: not even one deal, neither directly nor indirectly. When the U.S. hostages were kidnapped and disappeared in Lebanon a meeting was held in the office of a very senior Israeli official, and the proposal was raised that I use my extensive connections in the world and my acquaintance with certain elements in Tehran in order to try to ascertain whether there was any way to bring about the release of the U.S. hostages. All this was humanitarian aid to a friendly country and a close ally who was in difficulty.

[Grossman] Perhaps you could tell us what are your connections in Iran?
[Nimrodi] No, I cannot tell you. How can I tell you what my connections are? I acted just as I was asked to, with the cooperation of others, and as a result of this action the cleric Benjamin Weir was freed on 19 September 1985. I want you to know that the release of this hostage was exactly as the U.S. President described it when he met British Prime Minister Thatcher a week ago, when he said that what he approved for shipment could be carried on one plane, and there would still be empty space left! My involvement, as I described, was limited to a patriotic mission carried out at the request of the country's leaders, without any compensation. Following the release of the priest the Americans apparently reached the conclusion that they could bring about the release of the other hostages without my help, and therefore they continued the negotiations without me. At that time my friends and myself were asked to end our involvement in the affair. I got out of the matter completely, and was not involved in any more moves.

[Grossman] Mr Nimrodi, you said that the country's leaders approached you. Are you referring to the three former prime ministers [Shamir, Peres and Rabin]?
[Nimrodi] If you hear me out you will understand. Earlier I said that I received nothing in return for my action. I want to correct this and say that the only thing I got in return was the deep appreciation and blessings of then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This was the only thing I got in return for my efforts, and it occurred on the same day the first hostage was released.

[Grossman] Can I ask you some questions now?
[Nimrodi] Gladly, if I can answer them.

[Grossman] From what you say it appears that the people who approached you were Peres and Rabin. Were those the people who asked you to help?
[Nimrodi] I cannot answer these questions. I think you should settle for what I said, I do not want to go into details. I think it is not healthy.

[Grossman] Permit me to ask you another question or two. You can naturally refuse to answer. Do you know what happened to the money received in exchange for the weapons?
[Nimrodi] I have absolutely no idea. I have no idea. I was completely out of the picture. From the very beginning I was not in the picture.

[Grossman] Do you think this affair caused Israel any damage?
[Nimrodi] I do not know. It is extremely difficult to assess this at present. I think that one thing happened for certain, and that is that the Americans benefited from this. I believe the hostages will be released, and who knows what links the United States will develop with Iran. That is all. I am not willing to say anything more.

[Grossman] Thank you very much, Mr Nimrodi.

Arms Dealers 'Made Millions'

TA301141 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Nov 86 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Ya'aqov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer made millions of dollars from the transportation of arms to Iran. It has been learned from authoritative sources that the two did not receive commission for the arms deal itself. Nimrodi and Schwimmer were responsible for transporting the arms to Iran via air and sea. They leased the transportation means and it is estimated that they received large sums of money in the form of commissions.

A senior government official claims that Nimrodi and Schwimmer carried out private arms deals with the Iranians, making millions of dollars in profits that way. These deals were made without the direct intervention of the Israeli Government.

The senior official said one should check whether these two arms dealers did not use their special status and the ability to act on Israel's behalf for the promotion of their private businesses with Iran. Nimrodi and Schwimmer kept quiet on the affair.

'Middlemen' Tied to Swiss Account

TA301240 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 86 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Israeli middlemen meddled with the Swiss bank account and this may explain the disappearance of millions of dollars from the account. This was stated by a senior government official to *Ha'aretz*.

Senior ministers in the Alignment and the Likud demand that the investigation into the Iran issue be continued, among other things in order to check whether Israel did or did not have anything to do with the transfer of money to the contras.

It was announced by the Foreign Ministry last night that Israel had thus far not received a U.S. request to interrogate government officials on the Iran arms affair. If such a request reaches Jerusalem, senior sources say, Israel will be unable to oppose the interrogation of government officials.

Tzvi Bar'el reports from Washington that at the end of last week U.S. Secretary of State Shultz met with Israeli Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne. According to one of the sources the two discussed the possible interrogation of Israelis by Americans. It should be noted that arms dealer Ya'aqov Nimrodi, who was a key person in the affair, is not obligated to cooperate with the interrogators.

Contra Leader Interviewed

TA282030 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1835 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] What kind of Israeli involvement is there in Nicaragua? In a special telephone interview for this program, Adolfo Calero, the contra leader in Nicaragua, said that the contras did not receive weapons from Israel, but would be grateful if Israel did send arms. Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports on the Israeli involvement in the weapons trade in Central American countries:

['Azran -- live] Israel had good ties with Nicaragua during the reign of President Somoza. Agricultural experts and reciprocal visits were held by senior officials from both countries, and they were mixed with the military assistance, which included weapons and other equipment. After the Sandinistas gained control over the country, the official ties were broken off. In July 1983, *The New York Times* for the first time published a special report on a request made by the Reagan Administration that Israel supply the contras with mines, light ammunition, mortars, and artillery. Although Israel denied this, foreign reports repeatedly indicated that President Reagan, who confronted a negative attitude in Congress toward White House involvement in Central America, wished to use Israel as a line to supply the rebels with weapons. This evening, we contacted the contra leader over the telephone. We asked Adolfo Calero whether he fears that now, in view of the latest events, the Americans would now stop aiding the contras, and whether he is, on the other hand, satisfied with the ties he has with Israel?

[Begin Calero recording in English] Well, I believe that the crisis in Israel and South America has merit of its own and cannot be looked at in the context of a situation that has not been forced by force and that in which we have absolutely no responsibility. So it is true we do not put an end to U.S. aid to these Nicaraguan resistors. They have not received any aid from Israel, and that does not mean we would not appreciate if we did receive, and we would be grateful. But we have not received any aid. [end recording]

['Azran] Adolfo Calero, who had been a Coca Cola representative during Somoza's times, lives in his fancy headquarters in Miami, in the United States, and from there, in conjunction with his brother, Mario Calero, he conducts the arms deals with his men. The U.S. lobbying for the freedom fighters is being done by (Ret.) U.S. General Singlaub. The way to reach these people is not easy, and only those who win their full trust reach the training camps and can negotiate the supply of weapons and military equipment.

The contra leaders have personal friends in Israel, who fit these criteria. One of them, a weapons trading consultant, recently visited Nicaragua. Here is his report on the situation among the fighters there and their ties with Israel.

[Begin recording]['Azran] What type of assistance to they seek?
[Unidentified man, shown in silhouette only] I would say that they want light arms and ammunition. There is no room there for tank fighting. These guys would like to have Israeli instructors for small units who would advise them and train them in the field. They are spread over vast areas.

['Azran] Who are the people who roam about those areas? Perhaps you could throw in some famous names?
[Unidentified consultant] No, I will not enter into that. In general, I would not give any information on the people who are there.

['Azran] Would you, at least, call them senior Army officers, so that we could understand whom you are talking about?
[Unidentified consultant] I cannot mention names. Let me say but one thing: That in addition to our group, others can also be seen there.

['Azran] What do you mean?
[Unidentified consultant] Exactly what I said: Other people can be seen there, too.

['Azran] Has this fabric of meetings in Nicaragua in the field we are dealing with also included meetings with CIA figures?
[Unidentified consultant] Yes. The CIA is involved. I would describe the CIA as the supervisor, and....

['Azran, interrupting] How is this evident in your meetings?
[Unidentified consultant] I am willing to give one answer: It is evident with these guys in a meeting that was held upon receipt of the consignments. They actually met the deliveries. This is a direct outcome of a certain policy that was created there.

['Azran] How are negotiations with the contras being conducted?
[Unidentified consultant] I conducted negotiations with the contras for a few days in a country neighboring Nicaragua. The security measures they employed were, to my mind, excellent. There exists the fear, and they are constantly afraid of being discovered. We sat in the home of the person who is, I believe, today the number one man in this system: (Negro Chamaro), or at least this is his alias. We were presented with a few lists.

['Azran] In what form?
[Unidentified consultant] One of his officers brought along lists of what they need.

['Azran] How did they behave toward you as Israelis?
[Unidentified consultant] Exceptionally.

['Azran] How could you tell?
[Unidentified consultant] You could feel it. You could feel after only 1 day in these people's company as though you have lived together for years. I would say that as far as I personally was concerned, they were very open to the point that I was wondering why they reveal contra secrets to me after a relatively short period of acquaintance. [end recording]

The Israeli arms sales in the Central American countries are being done primarily through the large Israeli weapons dealers, who have a so-called exclusive right over these areas. More modest deals involve representatives of private Israeli firms which also deal with arms trade. Among the big names mentioned in Central America are Pesah Ben-or and Marcus Katz. These had previously cooperated with each other, while today they are bitter competitors over the sales zones. Both employ reserve IDF officers and former defense establishment employees. This is how, since 1979, 'Arava and Kfir aircraft, Galil rifles, light ammunition, and even patrol boats were sold to Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

In a recent report, the Tel Aviv University Strategic Studies Center stated that approximately 2 years ago, Israel increased its aid to Honduras, which lies on the Nicaraguan border. Then

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon reportedly took action to tighten arms supplies relations with Honduras. Minister Sharon visited Central American countries at the time, at the head of a large party, which also included his friend Marcus Katz.

Foreign and U.S. companies, which also benefit from the direct U.S. funds to these countries, also deal with arms sales in Central American countries. One of them is the Sherwood International Export Company, whose subsidiary has offices in Tel Aviv. The company has regular ties with the defense establishment and its weapons sales branch, SIBAT [not further identified].

Anti-Khomeyniites Leaked Story

TA020833 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpts] The Beirut newspaper report of U.S. arms sales to Iran that set off the current crisis in the Reagan administration was based on information from Iranians opposed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Until now it was assumed that Syrian intelligence had leaked the story in late October to the pro-Syrian newspaper *Al-Shira'*. This was seen as a bid by Damascus to strike back at President Reagan after the U.S. took a strongly anti-Syrian stance in the wake of the Nizar al-Hindawi terror trial. [passage omitted]

Reliable sources have now told *The Post* that details of the deals were given to the paper by Iranian elements opposed to Khomeyni — probably by the faction led by former Iranian president AbdolHasan Bani-Sadr, who is now based in Paris.

Bani-Sadr is known to retain excellent contacts with important figures in the Iranian regime.

The goal, *The Post* was told, was to show that both Reagan and Khomeyni were hypocrites, and to spread distrust between the ayatollah and his closest aides.

Weizman Urges Strong Measures

TA280622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman spoke about the weapons deal between the United States and Iran yesterday. Here is an excerpt of his comments:

[Begin Weizman recording] It is true that we too have been caught by our tails more than once, and we have had to return many prisoners in exchange for our men who fell captive. First, the situation is very different when the people in question are taken prisoner during battle. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our navigator, wherever he is, good health, and that he return home. I hope we will find the right way and price to bring this boy, who jumped out of the Phantom near Sidon, back home. Perhaps the time has come for the United States to think not only of how to enter negotiations with a superpower like Iran, which serves as a sort of go-between [last word in English] for a group of bastards in southern Lebanon who have captured several Americans who went there in the name of Western civilization as teachers, physicians, and instructors. If these people are caught by a group of bastards, the solution should not be of the sort that is under discussion today — and I am not criticizing here.

Perhaps the solution should be more in line with what happened in Libya — something that might prevent such affairs and not necessitate intervention after they happen. In other words, instead of killing mosquitoes, perhaps we will find the way to drain the swamps. I know that this is not easy. [end recording]

Government Ratifies Tabah Arbitration Bill

TA301117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] The Cabinet today ratified the Tabah arbitration bill. Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded that the ratification be postponed until three conditions are met: that Egypt pay compensation to the families of those murdered in Ra's al-Burqah; that Egypt cancel the restrictions imposed on tourism to Israel; and that it close down the PLO offices in Cairo.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Sharon's proposals were rejected and the bill was ratified.

The arbitration between Israel and Egypt will begin in Geneva in about 2 weeks.

Close to the start of this process the two governments will exchange the ratified bills and the formal part of preparations for the arbitration will be over.

UK Source Says Vanunu Affair Damages Credibility

TA260804 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Nov 86 p 2

[Report from London by David Horowitz]

[Text] Britain yesterday urged Israel to provide a "fuller explanation" of Vanunu's movements here, and particularly of the manner of his departure from Britain.

A Foreign Office spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Britain would not be making another formal approach to the Israeli authorities, and that it accepted Israel's assurances that British law had not been broken in the course of Vanunu's stay in Britain and departure from the country. The spokesman added, however, that there was still a great deal of embarrassing speculation regarding Vanunu's departure, and that it would therefore be "helpful" to Britain if Israel provided further information.

Whitehall sources told *The Post* that Israel's credibility was suffering badly over the affair.

Vanunu Case To Be Heard Behind Closed Doors

TA301543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] We will now go over to the Jerusalem District Court to hear an update about Mordekhay Vanunu's arrival. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports:

[Ben-David — live] The hearing has actually ended, but the remand of Vanunu in jail was not discussed at all. The debate about the latter subject has been postponed to another date.

What happened is that the hearing began with the State Attorney's request to hold the hearings behind closed doors. Vanunu's lawyer, Amnon Zikhroni, objected and demanded that hearings on the issue should be made public. After 40 minutes, Justice Tzvi Tal decided to reject Zikhroni's request and ruled that the hearings would be held behind closed doors.

In any event, at the request of his lawyer, Vanunu will remain under arrest until a date has been set for a discussion on his remand in jail. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR Editorial Assails Reagan, Arab Rulers

TA281700 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Nov 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Downfall in the White House"]

[Text] At present the U.S. Administration is occupied with putting its own house in order after being very occupied with the "houses" of others all over the world only a few days ago.

The U.S. Administration, with all its agencies and organizations, used to talk about terrorism and terrorists, and insisted that it was the "leader of the free world" in confronting them, until the "cards" were laid on the table and it transpired that the President of the United States himself, Ronald Reagan, headed the list of those who supplied Iran and its terrorist rulers with modern, lethal weapons!

The U.S. President tried to explain this "dilemma" in different ways but failed completely. He fell to quarreling in his White House with his advisers and secretaries in a public confrontation. Although the circle is still turning in the "House" around this adviser or that secretary — from Admiral John Poindexter who offered his resignation the day before yesterday, to George Shultz whose imminent downfall is being predicted by all observers — Ronald Reagan remains the sole person responsible for the "mistakes" piling up in the "White House."

We, in fact, are not concerned with this new American preoccupation, but we are necessarily concerned with the conclusions to be drawn from this clear U.S. "position." The first and major lesson, as far as it concerns us, is the necessity of linking the Arab policy with the pan-Arab interests of the nations of this region. The United States, which is one of the two superpowers in the world, serves only its own interests in all its policies in the region. Many Arab countries that run in the U.S. orbit have paid a heavy price for this. The U.S. interest in supplying Iran with arms will not be the last link in this episode. Consequently, any one of our Arab rulers who thinks that the "White House" is the house of his father and grandfather must revise his "calculations" well before one day being thrown out of this house!

Perhaps Jordan is the first Arab country that needs such a revision before time runs out. It will find, through a correct conclusion, that its stable relations with the PLO constitute a better support for it and is pan-Arab positions than all the plans and solutions of Washington.

AL-FAJR Urges End of 'Pogrom' Against Arabs

TA282005 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Nov 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Stop the Pogrom"]

[Text] Pogroms by Jewish extremists against unarmed Palestinian residents of Jerusalem would not have continued and intensified over the past two weeks if the Israeli establishment had not closed its eyes and pretended, for the sake of public relations, that the situation wasn't serious.

Dozens of Arab homes, shops and businesses have been firebombed, stoned or set ablaze, and residents have been the target of random attacks by groups of Jewish thugs who were left to roam Old City streets while police stood by. The handful of vigilantes who were arrested were released shortly afterwards and allowed to go back to their wanton attacks.

Eight Arab families who were compelled to leave their homes because of continuous attacks and threats were left to sleep out in the cold night air or to seek temporary housing with generous relatives and friends. Neither the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem nor the police force bothered to safeguard their return home. Instead they offered them alternative housing "until the riots blow over," as if Jewish violence against Arabs and their property were a legitimate practice that should be allowed to run its course.

Even now that the evicted families have gone home following the intervention of Arab MK's, there is no guarantee for their safety.

At a time when Arab residents were prevented from displaying any protest over the injustice done to them, hundreds of Jews were given police protection on their march through the predominently Arab Old City while they incited the public with racist anti-Arab obscenities.

When residents from the Shemuel Hanavi neighborhood publicly declared on TV that they would stone any Arab car passing through their area during the seven days after the killing, police and officials nodded their heads as if that were a legitimate practice, understandable "because of their grief."

Why did police so quickly retract their assertions that the Jewish yeshiva students have secret weapons caches? If police indeed know of weapons tucked away in Jewish homes and schools in the Old City, why haven't they confiscated them?

Are the police unable to contain the violence, or are they colluding with the KAKH and Gush Emunim extremists who hope to exploit the death of a Jewish student for their campaign to drive all Arabs out of the Old City?

Although more lip service is paid to condemning the anti-Arab violence, the lack of action indicates tacit police approval for the viglantes' actions.

It is the responsibility of the Israeli occupation authorities, by virtue of international law, to insure the safety of the Palestinian residents under occupation.

If the Israeli government fails to do its duty, it becomes a partner in the assaults against Arabs.

Foreign Currency Reserves 'Soared' in November

TA020839 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by Pinhas Landau]

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves soared by almost $1 billion in November to their highest level since early 1983. The receipt of the U.S. government's $1.2 billion economic aid package for the American fiscal year 1987 pushed the total reserves figure through the $4 billion mark, to stand at $4.262b.

In fact, the official reserves rose by only $938m., according to Bank of Israel figures released yesterday, and not by the full $1.2b. transferred by the U.S. Treasury.

Although not formally confirmed, it is believed that the Israeli government used part of the aid to pay off a foreign debt that carries a significantly higher interest rate than that obtainable on deposits on international money markets — the form in whch the reserves are held.

The Treasury, meanwhile, announced that the government had absorbed NIS [new Israeli shekels] 39m. from the public in November. This net figure resulted from conflicting money flows in the government's "real operations," meaning all spending other than on debt servicing, which showed a surplus of NIS 133m. as against its capital market operations, which showed a deficit of NIS 173m.

Sharon, French Foreign Trade Minister Confer

TA301904 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Israel and France are to look into ways of stepping up trade. Commerce and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon met the French Foreign Trade Minister, Michel Noir, in Jerusalem today, and they decided to pay particular attention to possibilities in the field of advanced technology. More from reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Both Sharon and Noir expressed dissatisfaction over the present low-level of trade between the two countries, but said they will work together to make it increase in the future. In 1985 Israel exported $276 million worth of goods to France, while France exported $306 million worth of its products to Israel. Today it was agreed that Sharon will lead a delegation of industrialists to France on a reciprocal visit in January, and in May, 12 French firms will participate in a high-technology exhibition in Israel.

The main hindrance to commerce between the two countries is that French Government companies are not buying from Israel despite a law against boycotting Israeli products. Such companies do, however, buy extensively from Arab businesses. On the other hand, Israeli Government firms purchased over $70 million worth of goods from the French in 1985. Noir was asked about French reluctance to buy from Israel despite the anti-boycott law.

[Noir] The French Government cannot give orders to a public firm but, of course, we can give signals and say things publicly that will precisely say to them that there is no problem, so we hope that we'll get rid of that kind of reluctance.

[Berger] Up to this afternoon's meeting with Sharon, Noir also held talks with Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Shamir. [end recording]

ALGERIA

GDR Delegation Arrives, Holds Talks with FLN

LD011312 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Algiers, 01 Dec 86 (APS) — At the invitation of the FLN party, a delegation of the Unified Socialist Party of the German Democratic Republic (SED) arrived Sunday here for an official visit to Algeria. The delegation is led by Gerhard Mueller, supply Politburo member and head of the federation of the SED Erfurt District.

Gerhard told the press that this visit will enable the two sides to examine bilateral relations between the two parties and the signature of an agreement for the reinforcement of secular relations between the two friendly countries.

Talks were held Sunday here between the delegation of the SED and an FLN party delegation led by Abderrezzak Bouhara, member of the CC Permanent Secretariat in charge of external relations.

During the talks, the two sides exchanged information on the evolution and action of the two parties and dealt with international problems and questions of common interest.

LIBYA

JANA Editor Views U.S. Link With Oman Exercises

LD020946 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Dec (JANA) — It is reported that 12 B-52 strategic bombers of the U.S. Air Force have landed on (?Okinawa) in southern Japan.

This U.S. military move coincides with the gigantic maneuvers being carried out by the forces of the U.S. stationary aircraft carrier Britain in Oman and the Gulf region, which have been described as the biggest maneuvers to be carried out by the forces of the carrier in the region for 20 years.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on these U.S.-Atlantic military moves. He said:

Saber-rattling is still clearly heard from the U.S.-Atlantic camps. The objective is still, as always, to surround the socialist camp, at the forefront of which is the Soviet Union, in preparation for a military blow against it, irrespective of any dangerous consequences that would ensue from such a blow on all the peoples of the globe.

The Administration of Israel's rabid dog, which is drowning in a sea of acute internal scandals and crises these days, is thinking of fleeing forward.

Israel's rabid dog, whose political death has become virtually guaranteed, is seeking to crown his terroristic record by a last act that could result in the end of the world.

The recent grave U.S. strategic nuclear moves and the statements of the child-killer, Thatcher, on intensifying the British military presence in the Arab Gulf are all new evidence of the U.S.-Atlantic terrorist plan aimed in the first place against the people of the Soviet Union and its allies in the East European states.

Since the arrival of Israel's rabid dog to power, the extent of his hatred and animosity against the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist camp has become clear. All his decisions and plans were fully directed toward preparing a campaign of hatred on all political, economic, military and informational fronts against the Soviet Union.

Anyone who carefully studies the statements of the U.S. military NATO leaders should be fully convinced that the Administration of Israel's rabid dog has began to beat the drums of war and that the U.S. plan to attack the Soviet Union military has begun its countdown phase.

The world's progressive and peace-loving peoples should unite in order to deter Israel's old rabid dog from carrying out an act that could cost the world its existence.

Weekly on Resignation of U.S. Officials

LD011511 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanoun 1, Jamahiriyah News Agency — *The Green March* weekly, published by the revolutionary committees, out today in an article entitled "The Hyenas are Dying" says that the U.S. Administration is immoral, for it has insulted and degraded the U.S. people.

It has also waged a disinformation campaign against peoples worldwide and especially against the Libyan Arab people.

Child killer Reagan, to justify his aggression against Libya, has alleged that it is involved in terrorism.

He, together with Jewish Shultz and his war minister Weinberger, has orchestrated a disinformation and slander campaign against great Al-Jamahiriyah.

When Kalb resigned as spokesman for the U.S. State Department, we in great Al-Jamahiriyah said that more resignations and dismissals would follow at the U.S. Dark House. This has come to be true as Poindexter and Lt. Colonel North have been dismissed.

As regards Shultz and Weinberger their future is still uncertain.

When the Reagan administration in their bombing raid on Libya dropped its bombs on Libyan Arab civilians, we, in Libya predicted that these same bombs would blow off inside the murkey Dark House in the U.S. to rock its foundations.

Child killer Reagan is so terrified because of the complete loss of his credibility and being too afraid to face the American public opinion has fled to his orchard in California leaving behind a tottering administration.

The U.S. people have realized that their President is a liar and that only big monopolist firms have brought him into office.

Undoubtedly, this people will settle its account with Reagan's administration which has wrought havoc on the world at large.

The U.S. people have realized now how to reshape the natural course of policy of the U.S. towards all the peoples all over the world, having discovered the damage done to the U.S. by the gangsters of the Dark House.

These gangs of the Dark House officials, or rather hyenas, are dying now because of the crimes they have committed against humanity.

Special Arab League Session Called For

LD291608 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1517 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Nov (JANA) — JANA has learned that the Great Jamahiriyah has called for convening an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League Council and the Joint Arab Defense Council to discuss the question of Zionist nuclear weapons, Zionist involvement in the U.S. Star Wars project, and the U.S. consent to deal with the Zionists as it deals with NATO member-states, despite the fact that the Zionists are not members of NATO.

This action is part of the role the Great Jamahiriyah is playing on the national level in order to repel the dangers threatening the Arab nation that are aimed at its very existence and culture.

The Syrian Arab Republic, the PDRY, and Palestine have sponsored the request. In accordance with the Arab League Charter, the Arab League Secretariat is bound to convene such an extraordinary meeting.

Syrian Military Official Arrives for Talks

LD012023 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Dec (JANA) — Colonel Khalil Bahlul, chairman of the Administrative Council and director general of the Syrian Arab Military Housing Corporation, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the press Col Bahlul stressed that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of [word indistinct] and developing fraternal relations, and to discuss means of bolstering them in all spheres between the two brotherly countries. Col Bahlul condemned the tendentious campaigns being waged by imperialist and colonialist circles against the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria, stressing the need to firmly establish and consolidate the ties of brotherhood and to expand the scope of cooperation and the political, economic, and social integration between them in a way that will bring common benefit to the two brotherly countries.

MAURITANIA

Mauritanian Black African Agitation Described

AB011034 Paris AFP in French 1158 GMT 28 Nov 86

[By Patrice Collen]

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Nov (AFP) — Confronted for a few months now with increasing agitation from black activist circles, Mauritania, which celebrated its 26th independence anniversary on 28 November, is passing through one of the most serious crises since 1960. This occurs at the very moment when the country is trying to democratize its political life.

Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's regime, in power for 2 years in Mauritania, has been facing a rise in black-African activism for a few months now since the publication last April of an "Oppressed Black-African Manifesto"; the arrest last September of several tens of persons, including about 30 senior black-African cadres; the conviction of about 20 persons for "attacks on national unity"; and finally the acts of violence in October against public and private properties in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, the economic capital of the country.

This agitation was mainly led by the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM), a clandestine organization created in 1983 to fight, according to one of its spokesmen in Dakar, the increasing Arabization of society and counter the influence of the various influential pro-Arab movements.

In its "Oppressed Black-African Manifesto," which was notably distributed at the Harare nonaligned summit in September, the organization criticizes "the Mauritanian apartheid," and the "Beidane System" which, according to the organization, ensures the political and economic domination of the Arab-Berbers to the detriment of the black-African ethnic groups (Toucouleurs, Fulani, Soninkes, and Wollofs).

The black opposition denounces the "fictitious statistics" showing that the black-African ethnic groups only represent 20 percent of the population, whereas according to the organization, they are in the majority now. These accusations are described as "ridiculous" by Mauritanian govermment officials, who emphasize that the blacks are largely represented at all levels of the administration and government, and that they are even overrepresented in some sectors. One-third of children attending school are blacks and 90 percent of agricultural investments are made in the south, where black-African ethnic groups are established, the same sources stress.

A population census conducted in 1977, whose data on ethnic distribution was not published, puts the black-African population at 17 percent, and according to recent statistics, the Moors remain the majority ethnic group, even in the southern part of the country, the same official sources point out.

Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdellah refuses to look at the problem in statistical terms. "There is one fundamental thing: We are all Muslims and as such the bonds linking us are even more solid," he said in an interview with AFP. A former army chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel Ould Abdellah in August replaced Colonel Anne Amadou Babali, a Toucouleur, dismissed for covering up the black agitation.

According to the interior minister, the acts of violence committed in these few weeks are serious, but it is the work of a "nucleus of about forty persons" without any popular support. According to Lt Col Ould Abdellah, the movement has been beheaded, the ring leaders have been arrested, and some of them have been sent to the criminal courts for trial.

Mauritanian authorities have on several occasions denounced the "external support" that the black opposition movements receive. These accusations, according to the interior minister, are not "aimed necessarily at countries of black Africa." According to observers, these accusations could be aimed at Libya, but it could also be aimed at Algeria and the Polisario, who are not happy with the recent rapprochement between Nouakchott and Rabat. These accusations were categorically denied by black-African spokesmen, who stressed, however, that their movement had contacted some Senegalese opposition parties, notably those of the extreme left, and also tried to sensitize the ruling Senegalese Socialist Party.

The black-African agitation comes at a time when Mauritania is experimenting with the democratization of its political life by organizing the first free municipal elections since independence. These elections, for which the election campaign was launched on 28 November, will take place on 19 and 26 December and concern the 13 chief towns of the regions. A maximum of four lists are authorized for a poll, which the authorities deliberately want to be nonpolitical.

"We have never known what democracy is," the minister of interior stressed, recalling that Mauritania's recent history has been marked by the rule of Moktar Ould Daddah's single party, the Mauritanian People's Party, and after his fall, by the total absence of elections.

This democratization of the political life is expected to be extended in 1987 to all the chief towns of departments, then in 1988 to all the chief towns of districts.

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Talks With Visiting Belgian Minister

LD011631 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, who has been on an official visit to Morocco since last Friday, was received by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki this morning and by House of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Osman.

The discussions with the prime minister covered bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. On this occasion, Dr Azzedine Laraki pointed out the common desire to strengthen and expand cooperation between the Moroccan and the Belgian kingdoms. Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans discussed the future of Morocco's relations with the EEC and ways to safeguard the legitimate interest of Morocco in general. The two sides also discussed the current problems and the situation in the region.

The talks were attended by the minister's adviser and the director of European and American relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

After this, Leo Tindemans and his accompanying delegation paid a friendly courtesy visit to House of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Osman. The talks covered the good relations between Morocco and Belgium. The speaker of the House of Representatives presented a brief outline on the development of democracy and parliamentary life in Morocco.

Hassan Receives Portuguese, Belgian Ministers

LD012247 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness the crown prince, Prince Mohamed, received this morning at the royal court in Rabat Portuguese Minister of Internal Administration Eurico de Melo, who delivered to His Majesty a special message from Portuguese President Mario Soares. The audience was attended by Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri, His Majesty's adviser Ahmed Rida Guidera, and the Portuguese ambassador to Rabat.

His Majesty also received Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Leo Tindemans, who is on a visit to Morocco. The audience was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, His Majesty's adviser Ahmed Rida Guidera, and the Belgian Ambassador to Rabat.

SUDAN

Al-Banna on Sudan-Egypt Agreements, Ties

JN011258 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA) — State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna has affirmed that Sudanese-Egyptian agreements will subjected to new standards in accordance with the interests of the two countries. He explained that in accordance with this step, which seeks to define relations between the two countries, the joint defence agreement is no longer valid.

Al-Banna announced that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are longstanding and should be promoted on a correct basis and in accordance with clear, objective, and sincere studies. It is noteworthy that in its statement to the Constituent Assembly, the government announced that all agreements between Sudan and other countries will be reconsidered.

On other matters, Al-Banna praised the Armed Forces' successes in the south. He called for interaction and solidarity between bodies operating in the south and the Armed Forces in order to reach joint administrative and military action as well as genuine cooperation to promote this part of the homeland in all fields.

Al-Mahdi Meets Egyptian Information Minister

JN011609 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA) — Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party, received here this afternoon Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian NDP, and member of the NDP Political Bureau, in the presence of Culture and Inforamtion Minister Muhammad Tawfiq and Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Husayn Musharrafah.

Following the meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, Safwat al-Sahrif said he conveyed to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi a verbal message from his brother Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Al-Sharif said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the two countries' eagerness to promote and develop these relations to achieve the common interests of the two fraternal peoples. The meeting also dealt with what was discussed during the meetings of the higher joint information committee under the Egyptian and Sudanese information ministers.

Al-Sharif described the outcome of the joint committee's talks as extremely positive. He said the developed performance of the information media is an example for all other sectors, adding there was agreement to continue meetings among both countries' ministers and officials to serve development projects in both countries.

Al-Sharif on Relations

JN012036 Khartoum SUNA In Arabic 1720 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA) — Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian NDP, and member of the NDP Political Bureau, has said that integration means achieving the two countries' national and strategic goals on the land of the Nile Valley without the need to find a banner to consolidate these goals. In an interview with SUNA here today, he called for a serious study of all areas to realize real develoment through the constitutional, executive, and legislative institutions that have been established by the free will of the two peoples.

He also denied reports that there is a chill in relations between Egypt and Sudan and said that the past period has witnessed the arrangement of the Sudanese home under the uprising, adding that the current atmosphere is suitable for a political, economic, and cultural move between the two countries, especially since political systems in both countries are based on a multiplicity of parties — which represents a real relationship and a unity of thought, creates an appropriate climate and basic principles, and removes past sensitivities from when Sudan was under a one-party system, the dissolved Socialist Union.

Safwat al-Sharif also affirmed that the NDP welcomes cooperation and coordination with Sudanese parties to create understanding and joint ideas. He added that his visit, the first by an Egyptian official after the arrangement of the Sudanese home, is viewed as a first step for the two countries to begin cooperation in various field, especially since the visit produced an agreement to develop media systems in the two countries.

Al-Sharif also said information in both countries should concentrate on preserving cultural, humanitarian, and educational principles for the sake of joint development and propsperity, because people cannot safeguard their freedom and democracy in the absence of economic bases. Regarding the need for a continuous flow of information between the two countries, he said he would discuss with the Sudanese information minister the possibility of increasing SUNA's role in Egypt, stressing the Egyptian Government's efforts to send Egyptian papers to Sudan regularly and at reasonable prices and to receive Sudanese newspapers.

At the end of the conversation, Al-Sharif stressed that the Egyptian Government will guarantee the freedom of the press in Egypt and will not interfere in it, review its material, or pressure journalists, adding that Egypt has granted the parties a right to issue their newspapers as they wish.

Sudan's Al-Din Receives Libyan Official

LD011956 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, al-Kanvan 1, Jamahiriyah News Agency — "Idris al-Banna," [quotation marks as received] the vice president of the head of state Supreme Council of Sudan received yesterday morning the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum.

During this meeting, al-Banna confirmed Sudan's keenness to consolidate the develop the existing solid relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. He pointed out that such keenness comes within the framework of Sudan's declared adherence to consolidating its relations with Great Jamahiryah within the pan-Arab unity context.

The secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum was received by Dr. 'Ali Taj al-Din, the member of the head of state Supreme Council of Sudan.

Dr. Taj al-Din hailed during the meeting the pioneering role of the leader of the revolution on the Arab, African and the international levels. He asserted Sudan's solidarity with the Libyan Arab People in confronting imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. He also praised the support the Libyan Arab people offers to the Sudanese people. He indicated that a popular and official Sudanese delegation will visit Great Jamahiriyah to discuss the integration plans of the two regions of Darfur in Sudan and Al-Kufrah in Great Jamahiriyah within the framework of the economic integration between the two sisterly countries.

Envoy on Integration

JN011538 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA) — Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum, has said that the integration procedures between the cities of Al-Kufrah in Libya and Darfur in western Sudan are under way. He pointed out that the Darfur Region's ruler will leave for Libya within the next few days in response to the invitation of the secretary of the Al-Kufrah people's committee.

His excellency hailed the Darfur conference, whose recommendations stressed cohesion between Darfur and Al-Kufrah and urged continued implementation of the integration program between the two areas on popular and official levels. The Libyan ambassador also talked about the agricultural holding company. He said a senior delegation will arrive in Sudan this month to complete the foundational procedures for this holding company after the Council of Ministers and the Constituent Assembly approved its establisment.

The Libyan ambassador also discussed Yasir 'Arafat's statement that Arab countries are ignoring the camps war. He said Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to intervene to stop the bloodshed to which the Palestinian camps are being subjected. He added Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's initiative is considered a positive stand on the Palestinian struggle in view of Arab silence.

Rebel Plot To Infiltrate Khartoum Reported

NC011810 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 1 (AFP) — The Sudanese authorities have uncovered a plot by southern rebels to infiltrate the capital and "create terror," the twice-weekly opposition newspaper *Alwan* reported Monday.

The newspaper, quoting a "top security report," said that the plot "aims at infiltrating large numbers of military cadres who were trained in Cuba and Ethiopia to create chaos and terrorise the citizens of Khartoum."

According to the report, the paper said, "over 100,000 southerners arrived in Khartoum in the past three months and security authorities believe that (rebel leader) John Garang's movement (Sudanese People's Liberation Movement) is behind that intensified migration."

Several thousand southerners arrived each day, despite an SPLM blockade of land and river transport between north and south, "a clear indication that the rebel movement is assisting the migration," the paper noted.

It said the report warned against what it described as "the terror belt" around Khartoum.

Ethiopian Attacks on Eastern Region Reported

JN021116 Khartoum SUNA in English
1020 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 2 (SUNA) — The Ethiopian warplanes have last Saturday renewed attacks against Eastern Region villages by bombing the eastern village of Mandal, 300 miles from the Ethiopian borders, killing unidentified number of citizens and injuring 50 others, the independent daily *Al-Siyassah* today reported. Quoting a Constituent Assembly (parliament) member the paper said Ethiopian military jets had previously bombed several areas in the same region.

The paper identified the bombed positions as Adari, (Gait Iterira) — all in the Eastern Region where seven people were killed and more than 15 others injured as a result of the Ethiopian air raids.

The Ethiopian aircraft also launched two air raids last Thursday and Monday on the two eastern villages of Marafeet and Barakah, in the Red Sea province, respectively, killing 15 people and injuring 15 others, the paper quoted the parliamentary member as saying.

The air raids were apparently carried against the Eritrean concentrations in the Eastern Region but they were also directed against Sudanese villages to provoke the government, the paper quoted the member as arguing.

The member called on the government of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to protect the Eastern region citizens and respond firmly to the Ethiopian aggressions.

SPLA Kill 13 Government Troops in Ambush

EA011849 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] SPLA units of (Koriom) task force intercepted an enemy force near (Luli Brek) last month, killing 13 enemy soldiers and wounding eight more. The enemy troops were advancing to (?Tali Post) through (Thui) when they fell in an ambush and were [words indistinct].

SPLA Inflicts Heavy Casualties on Government

EA011904 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] SPLA forces of Abu Shawk and Sobat battalions engaged an enemy convoy at Al-Abyar near Malakal on 22 November 1986. The enemy was trying to break through to Nasir. The correspondent says that fighting started at 1415 and lasted till the following day when the enemy was forced to break and run to Malakal. Two Magirus trucks and one tank were destroyed and heavy casualties in men (?were sustained).

TUNISIA

Paris Paper on Tunisian Islamic Movement

PM011212 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Nov 86 p 5

[Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "Islam's Apostles"]

[Text] Tunis — In Tunisia, a country of subtlety and compromise, it is sometimes difficult to assess opposition movements. Some are officially recognized, others are illegal, but there are also some which are tolerated, halfway between a clandestine existence and dialogue with the government. For instance, the Islamic Tendency Movement [MTI] has asked to be recognized as a political party three times, but in vain. However, it is sometimes asked to have discussions with the authorities. In

October 1985 its leaders even met with Mr Mzali, who was then prime minister.

Its chairman Rached Ghannouchi regards himself as being "under house arrest" and is not receiving foreigners at present. He is leaving this task to Jebali Hamadi, one of the five Politburo members. In theory the latter has just been sentenced to 7 months' imprisonment but he has appealed and is "still waiting" for the authorities to make a decision on this case.

Jebali Hamadi is a power engineer, after 6 years of scientific studies in France, and he talks more skillfully than most "turbans," as the supporters of a secular system call the "fundamentalists." Despite his calm tone, he delivered an outright condemnation of the regime: "Of course there has been some progress in Tunisia, as there has been elsewhere since independence, for instance in the education sphere. But the overall record is negative. We reject the kind of society proposed by Bourguiba, who has tried to destroy the country's Arab and Islamic component. The law on women, for which Bourguiba is so warmly congratulated for having imposed on us, is a mistake. Just look, the family in Tunisia is breaking up. We are opposed to the provisions of this law, which bans polygamy. We are not in favor of harems, but polygamy as laid down by the Koran, is a solution to specific problems. At least the Koran has the courage to codify certain things, whereas in Europe, men solve the problem by taking mistresses."

Despite this initial statement, our host portrayed himself as a democrat, deploring the fact that the government should play into the hands of the "extremists" by refusing to have more detailed discussions with the MTI. This party has a representative in the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, which was founded by supporters of the Movement of Social Democrats, the moderate leftwing opposition, but is open to all. The fundamentalists approve of the charter adopted by the league, aside from the section which states that a woman can marry a foreigner of a different religion.

"In France, at the university," Jebali Hamadi recalled, "the Tunisian leftists wanted to massacre us because we carried religious books." However, he said, he taught a lesson to his young student friends who wanted to prevent their rivals from expressing their views. "Even the Destourians have the right to speak out," according to this apostle of Islam, forgetting that his supporters in the universities have beaten up several people.

"The Iranian Vanguard" [subhead]

In the short term, it is likely that if Prime Minister Rachid Sfar encounters violent opposition it will be in the universities where the fundamentalists are determined and organized. Jebali Hamadi has no sympathy for him, but he does not want his predecessor to return: "We talked with Mr Mzali but we had no confidence in him. He was more skillful than the others and wanted to combat the Islamists by moving onto their ground: Arabization, relations with the Near East. Indeed he tried to cut the ground from under our feet. We have not forgotten that the repression began under his administration."

According to the authorities, the MTI is less powerful than it was, not because of repression, but because the course taken by the Iranian revolution has sickened many Tunisians. Jebali Hamadi was clearly uncomfortable when asked to give his view on this subject. "I have never been to Iran, and we lack information on that country. I have heard about violations of freedom. We are in favor of democracy. But we do not systematically condemn Iran, which we regard as being in the vanguard of the fight against imperialism. However, we existed before the Iranian revolution, and we are not a product of it. We are convinced that Iran will not support anybody but the Shi'ites."

The MTI speaks in legalist but rather ambiguous terms. In fact it has to reckon with the excesses of activist groups such as "the Islamic vanguard" which has contacts with Tehran. "The serious thing is that Iran is trying to activate mercenaries," a top official of the Destourian Socialist Party told us. "We have proof that the Iranians are recruiting people from Maghreb circles in Europe to destabilize us." The Pakistanis are apparently also active through small so-called "cultural" groups that advocate "the penetration of society by means of authentic religious practices," such as wearing traditional dress.

The authorities seem to have taken their stand on the infiltration of the universities by the Islamists. There is a strangely similar attitude to be found among ministers and prominent oppositionists who play down the present importance of the fundamentalist movement in the rest of society. But recent events in Algeria clearly show that this movement is deep-rooted and extensive throughout the Maghreb. Although they do not admit it, the authorities are constantly on the alert to prevent the contagion spreading to the army.

The army, which has 45,000 men, including 15,000 conscripts, remains legalist and modern. One of its characteristics is that it is open to women, and a woman even graduated first in her class from the military academy with the rank of sublieutenant in 1984. On three occasions in the recent past — in 1978 during the trade union revolt, in 1980 in Gafsa, and in 1984 during the "bread riots" — the army has restored order and then returned to barracks. The government's fear is that the junior officers and lieutenants will be less disciplined than the colonels and generals when the next alert comes. The Islamists have realized how much they stand to gain from infiltrating the army. When detected they are immediately expelled by a hierarchy that is aware of the fact that the country's future is at stake in such matters.

WESTERN SAHARA

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits SDAR, Congo

LD011122 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA — President Abdelaziz of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, said that it was the Iranian nation's natural right to continue its legitimate defence until the downfall of Iraq's Saddam Husayn who he described as an agent of imperialism in the Middle East.

Speaking in a meeting with an Iranian delegation led by deputy foreign minister for judicial and parliamentary affairs, Mujtaba Mir Mehdi, in Sahara Saturday, the SDAR president expressed appreciation over the Islamic Republic's assistance and support for the republic.

Mir Mehdi briefed the SDAR leader on the victories of the Iranian combatants at the war fronts of the Iraqi imposed war and Iran's political and military status.

Mir Mehdi and his entourage left Tehran for a number of east African countries on Nov. 13.

The deputy foreign minister visited Congo before arriving in Sahara and handed over messages of President 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to their Congolese counterparts. The delegation also met with Congolese foreign minister.

ETHIOPIA

Decree on Constitution Referendum Issued

EA011245 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1720 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Decree No 305/1986 on establishing a constitution referendum commission issued by the PMAC on 29 November in Addis Ababa]

[Text] Inasmuch as the direct participation of the working people, who are the owners of power in the struggle to establish the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE], must be strengthened in various directions; preparation of the draft constitution by the constitution drafting commission is complete following its enrichment by constructive opinions provided through the active participation of the working people; it is essential for it to be approved by referendum in order to confirm the working people's ownership of power; a constitution referendum commission must be established and rules to govern its work decreed to enable the working people to approve the draft constitution with full democratic participation; the following has been decreed in accordance with Decree No 110/1976, Articles 5 and 6 on revising the powers and duties of the PMAC and Council of Ministers:

1. Concise nonmenclature: This decree may be cited as Decree No 305/1986 on establishing a constitution referendum commission.

Part I: Concerning the Referendum Commission

2. Establishment:

a. This decree established and sets forth the objectives, duties and responsibilities of the constitution referendum commission.
b. The commission shall be answerable to the WPE Central Committee.

3. Office of the Commission: The Ethiopian Institute of Nationalities studies shall house the office of the commission.

4. Objectives of the commission: The Objectives of the commission shall be to submit to a referendum the draft constitution by which the PDRE shall be established and governed and to conduct the voting.

5. The commission's duties and responsibilities: The Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. To distribute and explain the draft constitution to the people;
b. To cause the people to vote on the draft constitution;
c. To formulate and apply agitprop strategy;
d. To establish polling stations;
e. To prepare and distribute to the polling stations the documents and materials needed for voting;
f. To issue necessary explanations and decisions on questions raised on the referendum;
g. To compile and submit to the WPE Central Committee the vote counting results sent in by coordinating committees;
h. To perform any other tasks essential to the proper implementation of the decree;
i. To issue directives and form various committees germane to the implementation of the decree; and
j. To submit and implementation report to the WPE Central Committee.

6. Structure of the commission: The commission shall have:

a. a congress;
b. an executive committee;
c. regional, provincial and district referendum coordinating committees;
d. referendum polling stations coordinating committees; and
e. revolutionary army referendum coordinating committees.

7. Members of the congress:

a. The congress shall comprise members: 1) from the WPE; 2) relevant government departments; 3) mass organizations; 4) individuals noted for their professional and public services appointed by the head of state; and
b. The congress shall have one chairman, one vice chairman and one secretary.

8. Duties and responsibilities of the congress: The duties and responsibilities of the congress shall be those as set out in this decree.

9. Meetings of the congress:

a. The congress shall meet at any time on the summons of the chairman or, in his absence, of the vice chairman;
b. The presence of more than half the members of the congress shall constitute a quorum;
c. Decisions of the congress shall be taken by majority vote; and
d. In the event of the vote of the congress being divided equally, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

10. Members of the Executive Committee:

a. The members of the commission's executive committee shall be elected from among the members of the congress; and
b. The members of the committee shall include the chairman, vice chairman and secretary of the congress.

11. Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee: The commission's Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. to implement resolutions adopted by the congress on the procedures governing the referendum;
b. to coordinate and control the work of the office and various committees of the commission;
c. to ensure wide distribution of the draft constitution;
d. to supervise the holding of the referendum;
e. to explain through the various mass media the procedures governing the referendum;
f. to report periodically to the congress on implementation; and
g. to perform any other tasks laid down by the congress.

12. Meetings of the Executive Committee:

a. The executive committee shall meet at any time upon the summons of the chairman or, in his absence, of the vice chairman;
b. The presence of more than half members of the committee shall constitute a quorum;
c. Decisions of the committee shall be taken by majority vote; and
d. In the event of the vote of the committees being divided equally, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

13. Duties and responsibilities of the chairman of the congress: The chairman of the congress shall:

a. chair meetings of the congress and executive committee; and
b. control the work of the secretary and committees of the congress.

14. Duties and responsibilities of the vice chairman of the congress: The vice chairman of the congress shall:

a. chair meetings of the congress and Executive Committee and perform the other duties of the chairman in the latter's absence; and
b. perform any other tasks assigned him by the congress and the executive committee.

15. Duties and responsibilities of the secretary of the congress: The secretary of the congress shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. to ensure that the minutes of congress and Executive Committee meetings are recorded;
b. to direct the office of the commission and coordinate the work of the various committees;
c. to represent the commission in all communications with other bodies as directed by the chairmen of the congress;
d. to ensure wide distribution of the draft constitution;
e. to ensure distribution to polling stations of documents and materials needed for voting;
f. to report to the Executive Committee on the work and accounts of the commissions office; and
g. to perform any other relevant tasks.

16. Members of the referendum coordinating committees: The members of the regional, provincial, district, polling station and revolutionary army referendum coordinating committees shall be appointed by the congress.

17. Duties and responsibilities of the regional referendum coordinating committee: The regional referendum coordinating committee shall at the direction of the Executive Committee:

a. distribute to the provincial referendum coordinating committees documents and materials relevant to the referendum on the draft constitution;
b. formulate a strategy to enable the people of the region to participate in the referendum and direct the provincial referendum coordinating committees;
c. ensure the completion of all necessary preparations for holding the referendum in the region;
d. make decisions on issues addressed to it by provincial referendum coordinating committees;
e. compile and forward to the commissions office the polling results submitted by provincial referendum coordinating committees;
f. Supervise the proper functioning of the lower referendum coordinating committees;
g. report to the executive committee on implementation; and
h. perform any other tasks assigned to it by the commission's Executive Committee.

18. Duties and responsibilities of the provincial referendum coordinating committee: The provincial referendum coordinating committee shall at the direction of the regional referendum coordinating committee:

a. distribute to the district referendum coordinating committees documents and materials relevant to the referendum on the draft constitution;
b. formulate a strategy to enable the people of the province to participate in the referendum and direct the district referendum coordinating committees;
c. ensure the completion of all necessary preparations for holding the referendum in the province;
d. approve and forward to the regional coordinating committee the lists of polling stations submitted by the district referendum coordinating committees;
e. compile and forward to the regional referendum coordinating committee the polling results submitted by district referendum coordinating committees;
f. make decisions issues addressed to it by district referendum coordinating committees;
g. supervise the proper functioning of the district referendum coordinating committees;
h. report to the regional referendum coordinating committee on implementation; and
i. perform any other tasks assigned to it by the regional referendum coordinating committee.

19. Duties and responsibilities of the district referendum coordinating committee: The district referendum coordinating committee shall at the direction of the provincial referendum coordinating committee:

a. distribute to the polling station referendum coordinating committees documents and materials relevant to the referendum on the draft constitution;
b. establish polling stations in the area;
c. direct the referendum coordinating committees to be established at polling stations;
d. ensure the completion of all necessary preparations for voting in the referendum at the polling stations;
3. compile and forward to the provincial referendum coordinating committee the voting results submitted to polling stations;
f. make decisions on issues addressed to it by polling stations;
g. report to the provincial referendum coordinating committee on implementation; and
h. perform any other tasks assigned to it by the provincial referendum coordinating committees.

20. Duties and responsibilities of the polling station referendum coordinating committee: Polling station referendum coordinating committees shall at the direction of the district referendum coordinating committee:

a. ensure the completion of all necessary preparations for voting in the referendum;
b. receive and properly use documents and materials sent by the district referendum coordinating committee;
c. register voters;
d. prominently display the voters list for perusal by the public;
e. conduct polling on the draft constitution, count the votes and compile and submit the results to the district referendum coordinating committee;
f. examine and make decisions on accusations and complaints regarding the implementation of the referendum;
g. report to the district referendum coordinating committee on implementation; and
h. perform any other tasks assigned to it by the district referendum coordinating committee.

21. Revolutionary Armed Forces referendum coordinating committee: The level at which Revolutionary Armed Forces referendum coordinating committees will be established and their duties and responsibilities shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the congress.

Part II: On Voting, Polling Stations and Registration

22. Voting guidelines:

a. Every Ethiopian aged 18 years is entitled to vote. Mentally defective persons or those deprived by law of the right to elect or be elected may not vote;
b. Every voter shall have only one vote, and every vote is of equal value;
c. Voting shall be direct, in person and only once; and
d. The voting shall be by secret ballot.

23. Polling station:

a. Zonal urban dwellers' associations and zonal peasants' associations shall serve as polling stations;
b. If the population of a zone is too great for satisfactory voting the polling station referendum coordinating committee may, subject to being granted permission from a higher body, establish additional polling stations; and
c. The commission shall announce details of polling stations to the public.

24. Registration of voters:

a. Every Ethiopian fulfilling the stipulations of Article 22, Paragraph A of this decree may register at the polling station in his area of residence;
b. A voter may register once only and shall receive evidence of having done so; and
c. Times of registration shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the commission.

25. Exigencies:

a. A voter who is absent for good reason from his residential address during the registration period may report to the polling station in the area where he happens to be and his name shall be registered in a special file and he shall be given evidence of registration; and
b. If a voter registered at a particular polling station changes his residential address or is elsewhere during the voting period his name shall be registered in a special file when he reports with evidence of registration at another polling station.

26. File open to the public: The voters' file shall be open to the public in the station for 3 days on the day after registration ends.

27. Objections:

a. Anyone wishing to object to the contents of the voters' file which is open to public may submit his objection and the reasons for it in writing to the polling station referendum coordinating committee within 5 days from the day the file was opened to the public;
b. The committee shall make a decision within a period not exceeding 3 days; and
c. In the event of the objector being dissatisfied with the decision he may appeal to the district referendum coordinating committee within 5 days from the day the decision was made. Decisions made by the district referendum coordinating committee shall be final.

Part III: On Approval of the Draft Constitution by Referendum

28. Approval of the draft constitution:

a. The draft constitution shall be submitted to a referendum by the commission;
b. The draft constitution shall be approved by referendum according to the procedures laid down in this decree; and
c. The people shall vote either to accept or not to accept the draft constitution in general.

29. Voting period: The date for voting on the draft constitution shall be announced by the commission.

30. Voting:

a. Any registered voter may vote where he registered or at a polling station in the area to which he moved in line with Article 25, Paragraph B, by reporting with evidence of registration;
b. Voting by any person shall be registered in the file;
c. Every person shall secretly mark a special place indicated on the ballot with which he will be provided for voting, thus expressing whether he accepts the draft constitution;
d. Voting shall take place in the presence of the polling station referendum coordinating committee members, representatives of mass organizations and not more than five observers who are well known in the area; and

e. Before voting the box shall be inspected and subsequently locked in the presence of observers.

31. Vote counting:

a. Counting shall start as soon as voting ends, but if it is impossible to complete the counting, the ballot box shall be sealed by polling station referendum coordinating committee members in the presence of observers and placed under guard;
b. When the situation permits, the boxes shall be inspected in the presence of observers and opened after ascertaining that the seal has not been tampered with. The ballots shall then be counted by the referendum coordinating committee members of the respective possing stations;
c. [passage indistinct]

d. The referendum coordinating committee shall immediately send the [words indistinct] to its senior referendum coordinating committee; and
e. Under this decree the referendum coordinating committees at all levels shall compile and forward to the higher bodies the ballot results they receive from the referendum coordinating committees under them.

32. On ascertaining the [word indistinct] legality of voting and forwarding to a higher authority:

a. Directly it receives the ballot results the commission shall ascertain that the voting has been correctly conducted in accordance with this decree;
b. The commission shall nullify all results of voting conducted in contravention of this decree; and
c. The commission shall compile the results of the voting and submit the final report to the WPE Central Committee.

33. On approving the draft constitution:

a. The constitution shall be deemed to have been approved subject to more than 50 percent of the voters voting in favor; and
b. The commission shall ensure that the results of the referendum are made public.

Part IV: Sundry Regulations

34. Obligation to cooperate: All government organizations, public and private organizations and individuals are obliged to cooperate in the implementation of this decree.

35. Penalties:

a. Any individual: 1) who in any way disrupts the process of ablloting shall be punished by up to 3 years' imprisonment; 2) who obstructs any Ethiopian in exercising his right to vote on the constitution shall be punished by up to 5 years' imprisonment;
b. Acts of conspiracy: 1) acts of disruption shall be punishable by up to 5 years' hard labor; 2) acts of obstruction shall be punishable by up to 7 years' hard labor;
c. Acts of coercion: 1) acts of disruption shall be punishable by up to 7 years' hard labor; 2) acts of obstruction shall be punishable by up to 10 years' hard labor; and
d. If loss of human life is incurred during the act of disruption or obstruction the punishment may be extended to include the death penalty.

36. Date of effectiveness of the decree: This decree shall be effective from the day of its publication in the official gazette.
[Signed] PMAC, Addis Ababa, 29 November 1986

PMAC Statement on Referendum

EA011340 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1710 GMT 29 Nov 86

[PMAC statement: "The People Themselves Constitute the Guarantee for Ensuring the Direct Assumption of Power by the People"; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] The process of establishing a genuinely just, equal and mutually prosperous society is the result of the sum total of various historical phenomena and, inasmuch as all victories in the process of struggle contribute toward the developmental steps of society, these victories are basically historic. Then there are discoveries and deeds which are accorded special consideration in terms of their historical value in the creation of secure springboards to effect subsequent victories and the advancement of the struggle. Our revolution, which has marched victoriously to reach this stage today, cannot be viewed outside the terms of this axiom.

Many historic deeds have been done since objective action was undertaken to realize the honorable aspiration which came into being on the eve of the revolution, of enabling the working people of Ethiopia to assume the ownership of government power. Thus, once again, the necessary preparations are being made today to perform a task which will be always be remembered as a special one in the history of our country and revolution.

The constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] — drafted with the joint participation of the working people and the constitutional drafting committee, amended and enriched by national opinion — will soon be submitted to a referendum, as planned. This system of decisionmaking is unique among all the ways by which the broad masses manifest themselves as the sole owners and source of power. It is a notable historical manifestation to which Ethiopians should pay particular attention. It can only evoke the greatest respect and happiness among the people who had no basic rights other than those enshrined in so-called statutes and who were alien to issues concerning their own country, and among those compatriots who struggled to bring it about.

It is clear that the working people have succeeded in assuming direct ownership of government power and control over the fruits of their labor and destiny by virtue of their crucial struggle in the past 12 years. We cannot believe that our revolution would have victoriously reached its present stage had it not been for the selfless participation and unfaltering support of the people. The working people have been able to reach this present stage at which they are preparing for additional victories by coordinating their efforts, utilizing the forums for the creation of suitable conditions and the tools of struggle and by building on earlier victories.

Government power is the basic quest of all revolutionary movements. The quest is not only confined to the assumption of power but its use as a tool to create lasting benefits. The assumption of government power became the aspiration of the working people of Ethiopia when the mass movement took place in February

1975. Eradication of the feudal political system became a prime duty toward ensuring the practical realization of this basic aspiration.

The steps taken in all spheres and directions since the establishment of the PMAC can be viewed only in the light of action to prepare the people, directly or indirectly, for assuming the direct ownership of power, which they are very close to today. The preparations made to establish the PDRE should accordingly be seen in this light. The revolutionary steps taken in various spheres have made possible the laying of broad, deep, and sound foundations for the prevalence and development of direct people's power. Those steps reflected the changes affecting the material life of our society. The use of these changes as incentives for further victories and the attendant results have won high regard. In general it is not hard to understand that the preparations for the establishment of the PDRE or the practical [words indistinct] based on this are built on our revolution's previous victories. [passage indistinct]

The PDRE is not only the direct manifestation of the assumption of direct government power by the workers but a government built on the results of the people's struggle and established with the democratic participation of the people. There can thus be no greater guarantee for the existence and strength of this government than the comprehensive participation of the working people and their support founded in faith and awareness.

It is noteworthy that the popular participation manifested during the preparation of the draft constitution reflected the consolidation of exemplary deeds and the level of development in the political culture of the working people. In addition to drafting through their representatives the basic statutes which will guide Ethiopia in the future, the working people have enriched it with incomparable revolutionary fervor and active participation, and during their deliberations on the draft constitution they acquired knowledge that will be useful in preparing for the future tasks awaiting in our ongoing work to build a new system. Accordingly, public discussion has not only improved the quality of the content of the draft constitution but has also guaranteed that the conditions for its implementation have been fulfilled.

Events have clearly proved that the state power of the PDRE is based on the desire and support of the people. Nevertheless, in order to lend this fact legal expression and the PDRE a legal framework, the constitution will be approved by referendum. By this historic act the people of Ethiopia will assert their supremacy and control over their destiny. Approval of the constitution by referendum will confirm that the people constitute the foundations of the PDRE's state power. It will also affirm the legality of the constitution and of the various laws based on it.

The act of approving the draft constitution by referendum is the supreme expression of the working people's democratic participation and affirmation of the fact that they are the exclusive sources and owners of power. The working people are accordingly expected to participate decisively toward rendering the preparations for and process of the referendum successful. They are expected to assert themselves as the main arbiters in the struggle to validate this document, which faithfully reflects their basic interests and aspirations and to endow it with legal power by endorsing it.

The power of a people's government is guaranteed only by genuine popular participation and support. It is a fact that in order to endow the constitution with legal power, all of us citizens must resolve to exercise our rights in the spirit of ownership witnessed during the struggle to lay a material and spiritual foundation on which to establish a government representative of the interests of the working people.

We shall establish the PDRE.

Mengistu, GDR Official Discuss Agriculture

EA012129 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The WPE's emphasis on accelerating revolutionary Ethiopia's development is admirable, in particular the strategy it has formulated to modernize the agricultural sector to develop this main pillar of the country's economy. This was stated this morning by (Helmut Mehlmann), member of the SED Central Committee and head of the SED's Agriculture Research Department, when he met with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Comrade (Mehlmann) praised the tasks being implemented in the agricultural sector, which he viewed during his recent tour of rural areas. He said he had been able to see for himself that the WPE is efficiently implementing these tasks. Comrade (Mehlmann) affirmed that the sisterly GDR and the SED will further strengthen their existing solidarity with the WPE and with the revolutionary government.

In his speech, our comrade revolutionary leader pointed out that the exchange of experiences have made a major contribution to the success of our country's ongoing comprehensive development efforts. He said it is revolutionary Ethiopia's desire that exchanges of work experience and interparty relations with friendly countries like the GDR should be further developed. The comrade secretary general affirmed that revolutionary Ethiopia is satisfied with the initiation of construction projects between the two sisterly countries and that it will contribute toward their success.

CAR

Paris Radio Interviews President Kolingba

LD011145 Paris International Service in French 1315 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Interview with President Andre-Dieudonne Kolingba by correspondent Christophe Boibouvier in Bangui; from the "Hebdo" program; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Boibouvier] You said in one of your speeches that the people have to be united, and that was why you proposed the constitution of the Central African Democratic Rally. Why have you dismissed pluralism?

[Kolingba] Pluralism? Because the Central African people themselves voted against division because pluralism is a synonym for ethnism here in the CAR. It is a synonym of division, and that is why the Central African people have freely dismissed pluralism.

[Boibouvier] You said in your speech on Saturday morning that reminiscences of the past had not troubled the Central African people. We saw in that, of course, an allusion to the trial of Jean-Bedel Bokassa. What, in your view, does Jean-Bedel Bokassa represent today in the CAR?

[Kolingba] You are here in Central Africa, in Bangui, to be more precise. You have seen for yourself the atmosphere. Do you think Bokassa really represents anything here, even with his presence here in [word indistinct] where we launched the referendum campaign? This has not disrupted this campaign at all, and we are continuing in the same spirit. Have you noticed anything with the presence of Bokassa here? No, the Bokassa affair still remains a mystery.

[boibouvier] On this very point, how do you explain the return of a man who risks his life?

[Kolingba] I think it is up to Bokassa himself to answer that question. As for me, I really cannot explain it. It is a continuing mystery.

[Boibouvier] Do you not think that certain people have thought of the possibility of destabilizing the country and thus (?supported) Jean-Bedel Bokassa's return?

[kolingba] I will reserve judgement on that question.

[Boibouvier] In his message to the public, Jean-Bedel Bokassa stated that he supported your action. Do you believe he is sincere?

[Kolingba] He spoke, you heard him. But as for believing whether or not he is sincere, I cannot say. He said that; he has spoken; the words came out of his mouth, but as for going deeper and finding out whether he is sincere in what he said — you will have to ask him that question.

PRC'S Zhang Jingfu Arrives for Official Visit

AB011635 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Bangui, Dec 1 (AFP) — China's vice-premier in charge of economic affairs, Zhang Jingfu, arrivedd here Monday for a four-day visit to the Central African Republic, it was announced here.

Mr Zhang is due to meet Tuesday with President Andre Kolingba.

The Chinese official, travelling at the head of a 13-member delegation, earlier visited Zaire and Cameroon and will return to Beijing Thursday.

AFP: Former Official, Other Detainees Amnestied

AB011624 Paris AFP in French 1428 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Bangui, 1 Dec (AFP) — Sixty-four detainees will be granted amnesty decided by CAR President General Andre Kolingba on the occasion of his swearing-in as president, an official decree published in Bangui on Monday pointed out.

Among those to benefit from the amnesty, whom official sources have described as "political prisoners," is Francois Gueret, a former CAR high commissioner in charge of developing state-owned mixed companies. Mr Gueret, who was arrested in 1984, was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a special tribunal. Mr Gueret's jailing followed the publication of a letter he sent to a "high French official" in which he questioned the regime of President Kolingba and stated that he was "the only person capable of defending France's interests in the CAR," it is recalled.

Mr Gueret had earlier been minister of justice under President David Dacko and was a leader of the Movement for Democracy and Independence (MDI).

An unspecified number of common law detainees will also benefit from the presidential amnesty, the official decree pointed out.

CHAD

Habre on Libyan Army Reinforcement in North

AB301828 Paris AFP in French 1740 GMT 29 Nov 86

[By Bernard Apfeldorfer]

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 30 Nov [date as received] (AFP) — The Libyan Army is being reinfeinforcforced north of the 16th Parallel, "at a particularly accelerated pace at Fada (Ennedi, northeastern Chad), Ogoue, and Ouadi-Doum (150 km northeast of Faya-Largeau) where it has virtually doubled its strength in less than 2 months," Chadian President Hissein Habre said in an interview granted in Ndjamena to AFP and the French Television Network TF1.

This reinforcement of the Libyan Army bolsters the Chadian president's fears at seeing Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who, according to Mr Habre, is faced with internal problems, "push ahead" rather than "withdraw." [passage omitted]

Mr Habre also expressed his "deep regret" that Benin should continue to "serve as a transit base for mercenaries of all nationalities for the Islamic Legion" created by Libya. Chadian envoys have been sent to Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou to protest, he pointed out. "Each time we get the opportunity, we will continue to protest against these anti-Chadian and anti-African activities," Mr Habre added.

The Chadian president confirmed the arrival of the additional aid requested from France, stressing that his forces lacked sophisticated antitank and antiaircraft materials. The United States had been approached to procure these materials, "but up until now the Americans have been hesitating; I hope to convince them," Mr Habre said.

Concerning the French air defense outfit "Epervier," which had to be reduced for technical reasons, Mr Habre said it should "regain its essential components." "If we have to undertake a military action beyond the 16th Parallel (which separates the opposing forces), we will take all the necessary risks," Mr Habre continued, excluding this time, however, the possibility of French air defense support, "because such a support that we demand has always been refused us." [passage omitted]

During the interview, the Chadian president reaffirmed that "the return of all the sons of Chad" who are in the opposition constituted one of Ndjamena's major priorities. He pointed out that Acheikh Ibn Oumar, leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), was, in spite of his "more or less patriotic rhetoric," which is meant for the outside world, "really in the hands of Al-Qadhdhafi."

Finally, Hissein Habre expressed the "sincere wish" that French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac would come to Chad.

CONGO

New GUNT Head To Meet President Sassou-Nguesso

AB011646 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 1 (AFP) — The newly chosen leader of the main Chadian rebel movement, Achiekh Ibn Oumar, has arrived in Congo and was expected to meet with President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who is current head of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), informed sources said here Monday.

The sources said Mr Oumar, named to head the rebel Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) following the ouster and arrest last October in Libya of the movement's former leader, Goukouni Oueddei, had arrived here over the weekend with several other GUNT officials. They said the GUNT delegation was expected to seek Colonel Sassou-Nguesso's support for the organization of a reconciliation conference with other Chadian factions and the government of President Hissein Habre.

Foreign Minister Dropped From PCT Politburo

AB011745 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 1 (AFP) — Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba has been dropped from the Politburo of the ruling Congolese Labor Party [PCT], it was announced here.

Also dropped from the Politburo during a party Central Committee meeting which ended Sunday was former Foreign Minister Pierre Nze, who has been considered one of the ruling party's leading theoreticians.

The meeting decided to reduce membership in the Politburo from 13 to 10 members and cut the Central Committee's Secretariat, the party's top executive body, back from 10 to eight members, officials said.

Analysts here said the changes within the workers party could be followed soon by a government reshuffle.

RWANDA

Ukrainian Communications Minister Visits

EA020438 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Ukrainian Minister of Communications Comrade Vladimir Delikatnyy, who is in our country for Soviet Culture Week at the head of an important delegation, this morning held talks with Militant Andre Ntagerura, Rwandan minister of transport and communications. The two stressed strengthening bilateral relations.

ZAIRE

President Mobutu in Spain for Official Visit

For reportage on President Mobutu Sese Seko's 2-day official visit to Spain, including his meetings with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos, see the 2 December issue of the Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Receives Malian Defense Minister

AB292117 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] The Burkinabe president received late this morning Malian Defense Minister General Sekou Ly, who arrived here yesterday for a visit. The Malian minister was introduced to Captain Thomas Sankara by Popular Defense Minister Comrade Jean-Baptiste Bouakry Lingani. At the end of the audience, Sekou Ly spoke to the press:

[Begin Ly recording] I would first of all like to thank you for the the opportunity you have given me to express my sincere gratitude to the president of Burkina Faso, who kindly received me and my delegation and who for 1 and 1/2 hours and in an atmosphere of extreme simplicity, friendship, and fraternity gave us the opportunity to examine all issues that could bring together the Malian and Burkinabe armies, as well as our two peoples. Our meeting centered mainly on these issues, which to us were very important, because we are here at the invitation of Burkina Faso conveyed through our friend, Minister Jean-Baptiste Lingani. We have had the opportunity to speak about this on your television, but this morning we had to deliver our message to the president of Burkina Faso, which we have just done. I must say we discussed important issues relating to our future cooperation. Not only did we review our past relations, but we also examined the present to make a profitable projection for our peoples and our armies for the future.

If we made mistakes in the past, there is no question of repeating these mistakes. We must strive to make the future bright for our peoples, so hand in hand forever as brothers and relatives we will work toward our development. [end recording]

Lingani Meets Malian Minister

AB301546 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] A gala party was hosted last night in honor of the Malian delegation now on a friendly and brotherly visit to our country. The pleasant occasion was attended by the CNR chairman and members of the revolutionary government. Outlining the significance of the meeting, Popular Defense Minister Comrade Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani said it was important for the future of the relations between the Malian and the Burkinabe peoples. It is a meeting of two armies that clashed in the past and that are now getting to know each other and fostering brotherly relations. Comrade Lingani stressed the need for the Malian and Burkinabe authorities to hold frequent consultations to avoid falling in the traps of imperialism. Let us listen to Comrade Lingani:

[Begin Lingani recording] This meeting is indicative of the political maturity of our peoples and their leaders. It is also the manifestation of our heads of state's political will and their ability to overcome occasional differences and work toward a brighter future for the sons and daughters of our two countries. It is the materialization of our determination to show the international community at large that we are sincerely willing to establish genuine and lasting peace between our two peoples and contribute to peace in the subregion. Our move and our behavior will undoubtedly disturb our common enemies. This is because our move runs counter the (?futile) dream of the vampires and assassins of our peoples, who hope to see us tear one another to pieces, which would provide them with an opportunity to boost their war industries.

Through me, all the people's defense forces, along with the Burkinabe people, reiterate their sincere desire to work toward peace. On behalf of the CNR chairman and president of Burkina Faso and head of government, I would like to serve as spokesman and ask you to convey our very brotherly greetings to the brotherly people of Mali, their Army, and its supreme commander, General Moussa Traore. [end recording]

Malian Defense Minister General Sekou Ly recalled that the plagues Malians and Burkinabe must fight are hunger, misery, diseases, and desert encroachment; in a nutshell, all the attendant problems of underdevelopment. Gen Sekou Ly, whom we are now listening to, also pledged the Malian people's sincere friendship toward the Burkinabe people:

[Begin Ly recording] We sincerely thank the Burkinabe people. As the minister of defense said, they are long-standing friends of the Malian people. They shall always remain our brothers. Here, we are like brothers and sisters, fathers and sons, husbands and wives. This is true when we are in Burkina and when we are in Mali. History commands coexistence; our geography commands that we live as a community. Our general situation with the interdependence of our populations is an established fact that we must jointly strengthen to build a strong Burkinabe and Malian nation tomorrow.

We have the strength to achieve this because we have the courage. We have the strength to achieve this because our peoples want us to. We have no alternative. We can no longer afford errors or mistakes similar to those we made in the past. As an African saying goes, the tongue and the teeth are always together; and yet, incidents will occur between them even though they constantly live together with very close bonds. But when an incident occurs, it will be forgotten immediately and the wound on the tongue heals rapidly; the teeth will caress the wound so it will heal rapidly.

Comrades of Burkina Faso, the message that I bring to your people is the message from the Malian people to their brothers and friends; not to a neighbor but to a brother and to a friend, a father, a mother, and their children. This is to say that we are now bound to head toward only one direction; not in the direction of a reconciliation — which has already been made — but in the direction of a total union; a union to build our nations; a union that will enable us to tell Africa's enemies: You have failed, but we have succeeded in working together to build a strong and prosperous African nation. [end recording]

Malian Minister Departs

AB301610 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Malian Defense Minister General Sekou Ly, who arrived in Ouagadougou Friday at the head of a high-level delegation, left our capital this morning for Bamako. Speaking to Rene Ouedraogo of the national television, the Malian defense minister expressed satisfaction with his stay in our country:

[Begin Ly recording] I would first of all like to express my sincere gratitude to the Burkinabe people and their president, as well as to my brother and friend, Defense Minister Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, for the very friendly and fraternal reception, which my delegation and myself highly appreciate, a reception that is typically African. You know, when we arrived here, we knew we would meet brothers and friends, and we leave here very much reassured in this belief, for I have told the press on several occasions that we have a duty to fulfill to our people; that is, we must forget the past and look closely at the present to make projections for a brighter future for our peoples.

We leave here very much reassured by the frankness in the friendship shown us, the frankness in the actions taken to promote a true rapprochement between our peoples so tomorrow, when God gives us bright sunshine, when rain falls in our countries so we have adequate rainfall, and when frogs and crickets combine their croaks and chirps to create a symphony, our populations, united into one people, can heartily sing in unison while harvesting their crops [words indistinct] together.

I have the feeling that we have certainly embarked on the path towards a real cooperation among our peoples. We are very satisfied with this visit, and I must assure you that we are ready to repeat it. We must begin to meet regularly. It helps to smooth things out. [end recording]

MALI

Algeria's Ibrahimi Arrives, Meets President

LD012233 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Bamako this morning to chair the sixth session of the Algerian-Malian joint cooperation commission. Shortly before the opening of the commission's work, the head of Algerian diplomacy met with President Moussa Traore, to whom he conveyed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

During the discussion, they reviewed Algerian-Malian relations and the situation in Africa, in the Mediterranean, and in the Arab world.

NIGERIA

ANC President Tambo Arrives for Official Visit

AB011612 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The president of the African National Congress of South Africa, Mr Oliver Tambo, is in Lagos on an official visit to Nigeria. A statement issued today by the National Committee Against Apartheid, NACAAP, said Mr Tambo will address a news conference tomorrow at 1000 in the morning. The venue of the conference is the boardroom of NACAAP, Ikoyi.

SIERRA LEONE

BBC: President Momoh Cancels Visit to Iran

AB301120 London BBC World Service in English
0630 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone is reported to have canceled at short notice an official visit to Iran. No reason has been given for the cancellation of the visit, which was due to have started later today.

President Delivers Speech on 1st Anniversary

AB290820 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 28 Nov 86

["Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Today is the 1st anniversary of Major General Momoh's coming to power in Sierra Leone. He has given a speech, and while he has been pretty firm in his policies in the past year, it looks as though he is going to be even tougher in the next. From Freetown, Calio Kamara cabled this report:

[Kamara report read by studio announcer] In his speech at an officers' mess luncheon at which President Momoh was given the unstinted loyalty and devotion to duty of the Armed Forces, the president declared: I know the country and its people are not in a patient mood. Life is not easy. We cannot forever keep asking the people to be patient. I have therefore tried, he went on, to see my 1st year in office as a period of active observation. He added that he had not merely limited himself to observing, learning, seeing, and hearing, but that he had taken a number of actions whose aims were to lay the necessary foundation for a future course of action. He did not spell out what action he had in mind, in which case his speech was below the expectations of Sierra Leoneans who had looked forward to the day as the date when the president can promise a brand new style of government. But the president made another promise that all the activities he had been involved in during the past year provided him with a sum total of experience with which he now intends to direct his administration with greater firmness and boldness in order to retain the goals that he had set himself and for the country.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Reviews People's Assembly Session

MB011830 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 1 dec 86

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the opening of a special session of the People's Assembly in Luanda on 1 December — recorded]

[Text] Comrade deputies, the current session of the People's Assembly marks the end of the first legislative session in the People's Republic of Angola. In this session we will review the Assembly's activities in the 6 years since the creation of the organs of state power at central and local levels. To achieve the best results, we will base our analysis and discussion on the report to be presented by the first secretary of the People's Assembly, the text of which has already been distributed. We must examine our successes, failures, and shortcomings in a spirit of self-criticism. We must point the way to overcome those deficiences and strengthen the existing organs of people's power. We all understand the supreme importance of the organs of people's power in the attainment of the aspirations of the working masses and the need to make those organs more efficient and dynamic during the next legislative session so that the People's Assembly and the provincial people's assemblies will fulfill their objectives and tasks.

The complex social and political conditions existing at the time of the creation of the organs of people's power in Angola did not allow, until now, the normal functioning of these organs at municipality and commune levels. However, limitations imposed by permanent aggression and destabilization by the South African racists and its allies did not prevent our party and people from carrying out, in a democratic manner, the process of the renewal of mandates for the organs of people's power. This process has already entered its final phase with the forthcoming provincial electoral conferences. This constitutes a heavy defeat for our enemies who are making every effort possible to throttle our struggle.

The democratic aspect of this process was illustrated by the participation of party grass-roots organizations, trade unions, mass and social organizations, and workers organizations. Moreover, Angolan citizens wrote to give their opinions on the proposed candidates whose biographies and photographs were and still are posted in public places. The results of this democratic process also reflected a rejection by the workers of some candidates whose moral and social behavior was incompatible with the demands of the post of deputy. This democratic process also led to a nonrenewal of mandates for a large number of deputies in the People's Assembly and in the provincial people's assemblies, who in one way or another did not satisfactorily execute their duties during the term of their mandates.

In our analysis we will find organizational and functional faults in the organs of people's power, and, in particular, in the People's Assembly. In some cases, despite the existence of legal provisions defining its constitutional powers, these were not used. In other instances, constitutional powers were used deficiently. I am referring specifically to the functioning of several working committees and its links with the permanent commission and the support given to the provincial people's assemblies in the rendering of accounts of deputies and the People's central administrative organs. The irregular functioning of the working committees and their weak links with the permanent commission and the secretary of the People's Assembly has reflected nagatively in the execution of important decisions of these organs of the people's power. The working committees are the cells that feed the People's Assembly so they may function effectively as the supreme organ of the state power which oversees the organization and control of all state activity in our ocuntry. It is urgent that in the next legislative session we approve the adequate regulations and procedures to make the central administrative state organs grow periodically and in tandem with the People's Assembly.

These central administrative state organs must also use party cadres and structures in their relationship with the working committees of the People's Assembly. I appeal to the deputies to use these linking mechanisms in cooperation with the People's Assembly secretary and the secretariat of the Council of Ministers. At the same time, we want to improve existing mechanisms for deputies who after, visiting their constituencies, must account for their work, thus ensuring better coordination with the respective state organs, which should participate in the solution of local problems.

I believe that if at the central and local level we strengthen these links and execute our plans according to the national state plan guidelines we shall be able to overcome the difficulties currently limiting our capacity to address local issues. In most cases, the solution to local issues, because of its their particular nature, is left entirely to local organs. There are and there will not be any provisions in the state plan for these problems which only need dynamism and responsibility from local organs and authorities. In this context it is important that in the next legislative session we schedule seminars in cooperation with the national institute of state organization and administration for deputies of the People's Assembly and of provincial people's assemblies to help deputies of these state organs better understand their role. It will also enable central organs and the provincial people's assemblies to achieve a new dynamism in the search of solutions for local issues. This task is complex but could be executed step by step.

The clear definition of the task of the local and central organs will make people accountable, will increase the functioning capacity of these organs, and will mobilize and organize the technical, material, and administrative manpower needed for the most urgent tasks of the local organs.

Comrade deputies: During the current legislative session, we took important steps to inform other parliamentary groups about problems in our region as well as our own points of view on them. The admission of the People's Republic of Angola as a full member in the union of African Parliamentarians, and later to the interparliamentarian world organization, were events of high importance to our people and state. This gave us an opportunity to make our points of view known and to receive greater solidarity in these two international forums for our efforts. This must be put to good use in our next legislative session.

Within the same context we must strengthen and broaden our links with parliamentarians and parliamentary groups worldwide, so that we can participate actively and consistently as a group in the struggle for justice, liberty, and social progress of the peoples and in particular in the eradication of the humiliating and aggressive apartheid regime installed in South Africa. This will be so much more important if we recall that recently a group of European parliamentarians received the Angolan renegade Savimbi, a known agent of imperialism in the pay of Pretoria.

We demand from the new deputies to the People's Assembly in the next legislative session maximum diligence and dynamism in the implementation of the tasks that will be assigned to them, so that People's Assembly will become, in fact, an organ of the people's power, as it was the wish of the late president Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto. The deputies mandates end with this special session, but I want all of you to continue participating actively in the social and economic development of the Angolan people, so that we can achieve methodically the objectives of progress, well-being, and social justice for our people according to our constitutional laws and under the leadership of our party. I declare the present session open.

MPLA-Labor Party's Objectives 'Not Achieved'

MB011047 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Despite the fact that the principal objectives outlined by the Second Congress of the MPLA-Labor Party for this year were not achieved, the guidelines and decisions regarding the implementation of priority actions at party and government levels remain valid. This was decided during the 18th ordinary session of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee. This meeting, which took place from 26 to 29 November, (?centered on) [words indistinct] and positive steps were taken regarding the strengthening of the party's leading role. The process of assemblies, conferences, and mandate renewals was hailed as a total success in that it contributed toward revitalizing the party's grassroot structures, as well as the leadership bodies at all levels.

After analyzing the situation caused by the world economic and financial crisis and the fall in the prices of Angola's main export products, the Central Committee decided to recommend strengthened austerity measures and instructed party members and the people in general to control the strict implementation of party guidelines and make them more dynamic [words indistinct] which the country has to limit.

With regard to supply, the Central Committee instructed the defense and security council to continue to take charge of coordinating actions concerning priority goods because it was found that, despite the completion of the first phase of the new national supply system, there are still difficulties caused by dependence on other countries for large quantities of foodstuffs and other goods, transport difficulties, and excessive embezzlement and red tape when trading the goods.

Regarding the (?situation) in the field of education, the respective party and government bodies were recommended to [words indistinct] the efforts of the Youth of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, mass and social organizations, and local people [words indistinct] such as building schools and [words indistinct].

The efforts and initiatives by the party and government bodies in Cunene Province to seek practical solutions to the problems affecting education were duly praised.

The Central Committee hailed the solidarity of the Angolan people from Cabinda Province to Cunene Province with the Mozambican people at a time of deep sorrow for the sudden and tragic loss of Comrade Samora Moises Machel, founder and chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The 18th session of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee ended with a declaration deploring the cynicism of Western governments which, despite diplomatic and cooperation ties with Angola (?welcomed) Jonas Savimbi, the ringleader of the Angolan counterrevolution. It also saluted the governments which did not behave in this manner.

The MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee paid homage to the ill-fated Mozambican President Samora Moises Machel and hailed the election of Joaquim Alberto Chissano as chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee reiterated that the racist Pretoria regime continues to be the main source of destabilization in southern Africa and condemned U.S. interference in the internal affirs of southern African countries. It also reiterated its support for all peoples fighting for their independence and freedom in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

140 UNITA 'Bandits' Killed, Weapons Captured

MB020822 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The FAPLA combatants in the 4th Military Region killed 140 UNITA bandits and captured 6 others during clashes in Chitembo, (Onduvale), (Amoche), and (Tembo da Huila). In the operations the national defense and security forces seized 30 light weapons, a radio set, 101 assorted shells, 26 hand grenades, 11,000 antipersonel grenades, and other war materiel. An official source from the 4th military region said that 292 civilians were released from the yoke of the puppets. The 4th military region includes Huambo and Bie Provinces, and its commander is Lieutenant Colonel Marcos Monakapua Bassovava.

MOZAMBIQUE

Over 100,000 Facing Starvation in Sofala

MB011139 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] More than 100,000 people are facing starvation in Mozambique's central province of Sofala because of South Africa's MNR terrorists. This was revealed by the governor of the province, Francisco Masquil, in a meeting in Beira with the British ambassador to Mozambique, (James Allen). Mr Masquil said the situation of food in several districts of the province, like Gorongosa, is not satisfactory. He called on the international community to help with more emergency food aid.

Iranian Commerce Minister Arrives in Maputo

LD020954 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA — Iran's Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi Ja'fari heading an economic delegation to east African countries, arrived in Maputo, Mozambique, Monday for a two-day visit and was welcomed at the airport by local officials. Upon his arrival, Ja'fari met with the Mozambican minister for international economic trade. During the meeting, the Mozambican minister expressed his country's willingness for the expansion of mutual relations with Iran.

Abedi Ja'fari proposed formation of two cultural and commercial committees to study practical grounds for mutual cooperation between the two countries which received approval of Mozambican officials. The Iranian delegation left Tehran for a three-leg tour to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, on Nov. 30.

Forces Kill 18 'Armed Bandits' in Zambezia

MB011424 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] NOTICIAS reports that 18 armed bandits have been shot dead by the Mozambique Armed Forces in Gurue district of Zambezia province. A total of 13 armed bandits and a number of bullets were captured during the operations, and 60 people who had been forced to live with the bandits were released. The armed bandits had infiltrated Gurue from Malawi.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO: Police 'Initiated' Katutura Violence

MB011927 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1914 GMT 1 dec 86

[Text] Windhoek Dec 1 SAPA — Unrest at a SWAPO political rally in Katutura yesterday was initiated by armed members of a Defence Force unit and a reportedly army-controlled cultural movement functioning mainly in northern SWA/Namibia, known as Etnango, SWAPO's deputy chairman, Mr Daniel Tjongarero, said in Windhoek tonight.

One man died and more than 20 people were admitted to hospital with injuries sustained at the meeting which, SWAPO said, was attended by 2000 people when the violence erupted. The dead man is Mr Immanuel Shifidi, who was freed last year after serving 20 years in prison on Robben Island.

Mr Tjongarero told a news conference that several days before the meeting on Sunday, a number of SWAPO members received anonymous telephone calls that bombs would be detonated at the rally, called to commemorate the International Year of Peace.

SWAPO members had notices a large presence of a special police counter-insurgency unit, popularly known as Koevoet, at Katutura's police station before the meeeting began, he said. "Before the first speaker started at approximately 2:40pm members of the Defence Force unit and also Etango" were spotted and identified by SWAPO security personnel among the crowd at the meeting. "They were requested to leave for they were armed," Mr Tjongarero said. They left but returned about 30 minutes later armed with knobkieries, bows and arrows, spears, pangas [hatchets] and firearms.

"They started by smashing cars parked at the roadside," Mr Tjongarero claimed. They then converged on the crowd who fled. "It was at this junction that Comrade Shifidi was killed by the assailants."

At that stage eight to 10 police cars under the command of a senior security police officer, Colonel Jasper Coffee, hurriedly left the scene. "Their departure was very suspicious," Mr Tjongarero added.

A few minutes later, Casspir armoured vehicles arrived and started shooting teargas canisters and rubber bullets at a crowd "that was not there at all." They drove across the vacant field of the meeting, smashing load hailers and the stage where the speakers who addressed the meeting had stood. Mr Tjongarero said two hours later the Casspir vehicles were still firing teargas and rubber butllets in the vicinity , and then the vehicles proceeded to the Donkerhoek area of Katutura where more car windows were smasjed, including the car of SWAPO's acting president, Mr Nathaniel Maxuppili.

He contested a police statement that the fighting had erupted among people who had attended the meeting. "It is a big lie. The people attending the meeting were attacked by a group of people who may even be known to the police," Mr Tjongarero said. SWAPO had complied a list of names of the alleged attackers identified by people at the meeting.

It was also untrue, he said, that police had broken up the meeting because the chairman had lost control over the crowd. When the police Casspirs arrived, people were already flocking back to the centre stage, because by then the initial attackers had run away.

Mr Tjongarero said members of the United States Embassy in South Africa had been present at the rally and witnessed the events. "To the police I want to say I think they have told unprecedented lies and fabrications which will not withstand the test of truth," he said. "We call as an organisation for an independent inquiry into what has happened."

Mr Tjongarero said a SWAPO social function in Katutura at about 3am on Saturday to welcome SWAPO branches outside Windhoek had been attacked by a white-led "commando, possibly wearing military boots judging from marks found on the road." The attackers "smashed window screens, switched off the electrictiry of the house and then broke window panes, beat up people, shot one young man and grazed him on the forehead, and attacked six other people who had to be admitted to hospital."

He described it as a typical "recce" [reconnaissance] operation.

Mr Tjongarero attributed the incidents to the nullification Of the Prohibition and Noticiation of Meetings Act by the Windhoek Supreme Court in July this year. The act had effectively prevented SWAPO from holding public meeting since 1981. "It was the culmination of a programme that started (in July) trying to prevent SWAPO from holding public meetings in this country," he said. Instead of appealing against the court's ruling, the authorities had resorted to "the law of the jungle" and harassment of SWAPO to prove that the holding of public meetings in SWA/Namibia was not in the public interests, Mr Tjongarero said. He vowed that SWAPO would reschedule the meeting disrupted on Sunday. Mr Tjongarero added that funeral arrangements for Mr Shifidi had not been finalised.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reasons for Rejection of Indaba 'Untruths'

MB011221 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1215 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Durban Dec 1 SAPA — The chairman of the Natal-KwaZulu Indaba, Prof Desmond Clarence, today described the reasons given by the National Party's Natal leader, Mr Stoffel Botha, for rejecting the Indaba's proposals as "untruths." "The Indaba is a unique gathering and is the first time this has happened in the country. How a cabinet minister can summarily dismiss the recommendations is beyond my comprehension," Prof Clarence said at a press conference. "Mr Botha says we do not provide for power-sharing — but this is the very thing we've been talking about for the past five months."

Prof Clarence also said it was not true that the Indaba constitution planned a one-man, one-vote system in a Westminister type government. "There are many points in the constitution which counter this statement. I don't believe Mr Botha found the time to read them."

Suggestions that the final proposals were rushed through as delegates unlikely to accept them were not present were "mischievous," he said. The Indaba had reached the basic constitutional agreements three weeks ago and every delegate would be given an opportunity to accept or reject the proposals. "Obviously Mr Botha was acting on very bad information."

Mr Frank Martin, co-convenor of the Indaba, said Mr Botha's remarks would have done the country immense harm overseas. "We have had ambassadors such as Mr Herbert Beukes in Washington lauding the Indaba as a sign of genuine reform on the part of the government. To now reject it will have seriously affected our international image. Mr Botha must clarify whether he is speaking as someone in the cabinet or in his personal capacity."

Natal Politics 'Polarized'

MB011140 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The leader of the New Republic [NRP], Mr Bill Sutton, says the summary rejection of the Natal-KwaZulu Indaba by the NP will dissipate the goodwill built up during the Indaba and end any chance of success for the national council. Mr Sutton said in a statment issued in Cape Town that the rejection of the model of the Indaba made nonsense of the concept of power sharing. He said in practical terms, power sharing in South Africa could only mean a coalition between parties across the color line. Mr Sutton said the government's attitude had polarized political thinking in Natal, placing mainly Afrikaners on one side and the rest of Natal on the other.

Rejection Prompts CP 'Relief'

MB012039 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2028 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 1, SAPA — The National Party's conditional rejection of the KwaNatal Indaba proposals was "nothing but a red herring," the Conservative Party (CP) said today. Dr A.P. Treurnicht, leader of the CP, said his party's feedback from voters in Natal indicated "relief" at the NP's decision.

"However, voters should note carefully that power sharing in South Africa will lead to black domination, and this has never been denied by the National Party. It should be noted with care that the NP believes firmly in power sharing as a principle. It must also be remembered that this government believes South Africa could have a black president as stated by Mr Pik Botha in February of this year."

He said the CP would refuse a non-racial franchise if a referendum were to be held in Natal as "this would be yet another ploy to swamp white voters with non-white numbers." "The CP demands from the National Party a clear and honest blue print as far as black participation in government up to the highest level is concerned."

Dr Treurnicht noted that Mr Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning, stated in July this year that the cabinet "fully endorsed the KwaNatal Indaba as it could be a constitutional model for the rest of South Africa" but that Mr Stoffel Botha, minister of home affairs and communications, now rejected it.

Indaba Rejection Regretted

MB011036 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1019 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Durban, Dec 1, SAPA — The National Party's initial rejection of the Natal-KwaZulu indaba constitutional proposals for a multi-racial Natal was to be regretted, the KwaZulu minister of education, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, said in Durban today.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the statement issued by the National Party's Natal leader, Mr Stoffel Botha, gave the impression that Mr Botha had not yet studied the indabas full constitutional proposals.

"I think Mr Botha's statement is ill-advised," Dr Dhlomo said. He said he believed that Mr Botha, who is also minister of home affairs, was not expressing official government policy. Dr Dhlomo said Mr Botha was "naive" in thinking that there would be many more indabas.

"This could well be the one and only indaba of its kind and the minister and the National Party should make up their minds about approving its proposals," he said. Also speaking at the press conference, Mr Frank Martin, a former Natal MEC [Member of Executive Committee] and joint convenor of the indaba with Dr Dhlomo, said a rejection by the ruling National Party of the Indaba's proposals could seriously affect the Indaba's credibility internationally.

The government should make it clear whether Mr Botha was expressing official government policy when he rejected the indabas' constitutional proposals, Mr Martin said.

Official Says Soweto Wall for Pedestrian Safety

MB011527 Johannebsurg THE CITIZEN in English
1 Dec 86 p 3

[By Andrew Thomson]

[Text] A concrete fence next to the N13 highway near Soweto is not the start of a "Berlin Wall" which will soon enclose the township, the chief director of national roads in the Department of Transport, Mr Malcolm Mitchell, told *The Citizen* yesterday.

The fence was designed to prevent pedestrians crossing the highway and would be no longer than six kilometres when completed.

"About 70 percent of fatal accidents on national roads are pedestrian-related," he said, adding that the erection of fences alongside national roads was an international practice.

A report in *The Sunday Star* said that "a huge wall is springing up around Soweto and will probably cut the sprawling township off from the rest of Johannesburg once completed."

The *Sunday Tribune* dropped the word "probably" and stated that "Soweto is being locked in by a huge concrete wall."

An on-site inspection by *The Citizen* revealed that the "wall" was actually a fence of reinforced concrete, at present about two kilometres long. It runs alongside the N13 where it passes the elite Black suburb of Diepkloof Extension.

The Citizen also inspected concrete walls dividing the N13 from the White suburbs of Mondeor, Gillview and Crown Gardens, among others.

Mr Mitchell said that pedestrians wishing to cross national roads in built-up areas should do so over bridges provided for the purpose.

The concrete fence near Diepkloof was the department's third attempt to make that section of road safe. A six-strand wire fence had at first been erected, but this had been removed by unauthorised persons.

The department had then erected a wire-mesh fence but this, too, had been removed. The concrete fence, less foreboding than the concrete walls built along other sections, was the last resort.

He lamented the fact that the newspapers concerned had not made the effort to ascertain the truth.

Security Forces Teargas Crowd During Festival

MB011738 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
1 Dec 86 pp 1,2

[Text] A festival staged to raise funds for a charity organisation was disrupted when members of the security forces allegedly fired teargas canisters into a crowd of more than 15,000 music fans at Orlando Stadium yesterday.

But a spokesperson for the Bureau for Information in Pretoria said the police denied that such an incident took place.

She said she made inquiries from police on the scene who told her the festival was proceeding smoothly.

The Save The Children festival was also attended by representatives of local and foreign media.

Mr William Ngobeni, who was at the stadium, told the *Sowetan* that one of the performing groups, Stimela, was in the middle of rendering a song when the security forces fired teargas canisters into the crowd shortly before 4pm.

"People started running in all directions when police sjambokked [whipped] them. A few were injured," he said.

He said it appeared the police did not want the festival to take place because it had political motives.

He explained that the festival started late because the presence of the police near the entrances intimidated some of the people.

Photographer Mbuzeni Zulu, who had his camera broken during the stampede, said he saw the organisers being taken away by members of the security forces.

He said on their return they told the crowd that they had been warned that the show must come to an end at 4pm.

Housing Program To 'Boost' Economic Development

MB020530 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Unemployment and the housing shortage are two of the most pressing socioeconomic problems facing South Africa. At the last — official — count, 533,000 South Africans were out of work. The shortage of homes in the country stands at around 300,000.

Now the government and the private sector have joined forces in an assault on these two problem areas. Leading the campaign will be the South African Housing Trust, the formation of which, with a board of prominent businessmen, was announced at the weekend. The government is injecting 400 million rand into the trust and it is planned to raise another 800 million rand through private investment in the next 2 or 3 years.

The parameters for the operation of the trust have been clearly demarcated. At the higher economic levels, financing of housing by building societies will, as in the past, be the norm, while the provision of housing for low-income groups and social welfare cases remains the responsibility of the state. The new trust will seek to cater for the housing needs of those who fall between these levels.

The emphasis will be on self-build schemes, providing both work and homes for people who are presently unemployed. Concentration will be on providing sites in areas where the house builders can look forward to future job opportunities once they have completed their homes. Red tape will be cut and pilot schemes will begin next month. All population groups will benefit.

This imaginative effort to generate more employment while actively addressing the housing shortage follows earlier government moves on unemployment, including the injection of 885 million rand into employment projects and the broadening of the social security net to assist more people under the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The housing project will also help stimulate the economy in general. It will do so without placing a burden on the balance of payments position or on the foreign debt situation, as the building industry is not very import-orientated.

The project can also be expected to help build the solid foundation for socioeconomic stability and security that is imperative if political reform is to be carried out in an orderly and lasting manner.

Coming as it does against the background of sanctions, boycotts and disinvestment, the initiative announced at the weekend will be a boost to the promotion of stable conditions for economic growth and orderly political change. It also represents a vote of confidence by the public and private sectors in the future of South Africa.

Blacks Willing To Give Up Jobs To End Apartheid

MB011105 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1033 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 1, SAPA — Almost half of South Africa's urban black population (43 per cent) is willing to accept the loss of their jobs in the struggle against apartheid, an opinion poll conducted by Research Surveys has established. In a press release today, Research Surveys says it was found that 21 per cent would do so reluctantly and 14 per cent said they would be resentful of such a sacrifice.

Sixteen per cent said none of the options applied in their case and six per cent said they "didn't know."

The younger generation of men, those between the ages of 18 and 34, appeared more willing to accept the sacrifice (47 per cent) compared with only 32 per cent in the group aged 50 and older. Sixteen per cent in the older group said they would be resentful about losing their jobs.

Loss of job notwithstanding, 40 per cent of urban men said they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that the African National Congress and people such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev Alan Boesak were "right in calling for sanctions to force the government to remove apartheid."

In contrast, 16 per cent "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with this while 16 per cent of the respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed or "didn't know."

Research surveys says "the most vociferous support" for the proposals came from the 25-34 age group, with 45 per cent expressing "strong agreement" or "agreement," compared with only 29 per cent in the 50 and older group.

In the older group, 11 per cent "strongly disagreed" and 21 per cent "disagreed."

The survey was conducted before the announcements of the General Motors buy-out, Kodak's withdrawal, IBM's decision to sell its South African business, the Bata shoe company's announcement and the Barclays Bank sale of its South African assets.

On current unemployment, one in four of the respondents across all income groups said there had been job losses in thier families, with the most affected occurring in the income group with a monthly wage of R200 or less (52 per cent).

"Not surprisingly, 42 per cent of job losses were reported from the unemployment-torn eaastern Cape, but 35 per cent of respondents in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal [as received] triangle also said their families had been hit by people being put out of work," the report states.

Those most affected by unemployment were in the income group with a monthly wage of R200 or less (52 per cent).

Manging director of Research Surveys, Mr Henry Barenblatt, said: "In sum, most people are aware of the consequences of sanctions, political support for these meausres is by no means uniform despite a strong viewpoint about the rightness of calling for sanctions, and if there is mass unemployment, the financial strain on extended families to support the jobless would be considerable.

"Indeed, this poll suggests that such support may not even be forthcoming for many people thrown out of work simply because the resources would not be there."

Urban Blacks Prefer Negotiated End to Apartheid

MB011136 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1117 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 1, SAPA — The "overwhelming" preference of urban blacks is for a negotiated — not a violent — end to apartheid, according to a nationwide poll. And nearly three-quarters opt for a multiracial rather than a black government.

In the Research Survey's Omnicheck poll, respondents were asked: "If you had a free choice, would you prefer black political freedom to be gained by violence or negotiation?"

In all categories, the overwhelming preference was for negotiation, with 75 per cent supporting this option compared with 13 per cent supporting violence and the remainder rejecting both options (three per cent) or giving a "don't know" answer.

Greatest support for violence came from the 18-24 age group (17 per cent) while respondents aged 50 or older most favoured negotiation (86 per cent).

But perceptions of when blacks would win a significant political voice were pessimistic.

One in four men and women said they did not know when blacks would win a political voice; a similar percentage said "not for a long time," 13 per cent forecast a voice within the next 10 years, 18 per cent said "within the next five years," and 10 per cent gave a one-year forecast.

Following these responses both men and women were then asked to select options in answer to this statement: "Mr P.W. Botha is asking black leaders to sit with him on a national council to seek political solutions for all races."

Thirty-six of all respondents said they would be happy to support any blacks willing to work with Mr Botha.

Nine per cent would prefer black leaders not in detention to boycott the national council.

Sixteen per cent said they would regard participating in the council as sell-outs, while 16 per cent could not accept any of these questions and 22 per cent said "they didn't know."

In response to options, 74 per cent of the men and women said they would prefer a multiracial form of government in which whites, Indians, coloureds and blacks "had a voice," compared with 14 per cent opting for an all-black government based on one man one vote. Four per cent said neither option met their views and eight per cent opted for a "don't know."

Three out of four respondents of all age, income and language groups said they favoured a multiracial form of government.

Urban Blacks Polled on Adherence to Stayaways

MB011239 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1225 GMT 1 dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 1 SAPA — An Omnicheck poll has shown that 31 per cent of urban blacks never heed work stay-away calls. Of urban blacks males who agreed to answer political questions in a intimidation-free environment in a Research Survey's Omnichek opinion poll, 31 per cent said they did not heed calls to stay away from work. Another 31 per cent said they often stayed away from work and 17 per cent said they "sometimes" did so. Twenty-one per cent chose not to comment.

Of those who did stay away, 59 per cent said they did so willingly, 33 per cent said they did so reluctantly, and nine per cent refused to comment.

And, 46 per cent said their employers had been unsympathetic and had penalised them by deducting pay or holiday time compared with 39 per cent who said their employers had been sympathetic and given them full pay. Six per cent said they had been warned of "dismissal next time." Nine per cent said none of these reactions had come from their employers.

Research Survey's joint managing director Henry Barenblatt said that the poll of those willing to freely discuss the issue of work stay-aways clearly indicated a lack of solidarity among urban blacks when it came to obeying stay-away calls. "Remove the element of intimidation, and the sort of stay-away figures may very well reflect a different picture, with the exception of the younger men who indicated a more militant attitude in obeying stay-away calls. It is clear too that while employees may have been sympathetic towards enforced stay aways, there could be an emerging trend of hardening attitudes."

The Omnichek poll showed that in Durban, a massive 74 per cent of respondents said they "never" stayed away from work against 46 per cent of workers in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-vaal industrial complex who said they "often" heeded the call to stay away.

By language, 45 per cent of Zulu-speaking blacks gave the "never" response compared with 24 per cent who said they "often" heeded the call to stay away. In most other major language groups, more than 40 per cent said they obeyed the stay away call (Xhosa: 40 per cent, North Sotho: 44 per cent, South Sotho: 47 per cent).

By age, 36 per cent of those aged 50 or more said "never" compared with 27 per cent of men aged 25-34 who answered "sometimes."

Among young men aged 18-24, 46 per cent said they didn't want to comment.

Respondents who said they stayed away willingly cut across all categories of age, language, income and region and exceeded 50 per cent in all but a few cases.

Most militant respondents appeared to be men aged 18-24 (67 per cent) and those aged 50 and older (60 per cent) and those who earned R800 a month or more (62 per cent) and most workers in the PWV area (62 per cent).

Of the workers who had met with little sympathy from employers, 57 per cent were in the R200-R700 a month income group whereas 51 per cent of those who earned R800 a month or more said their employers had been sympathetic .

Warnings of dismissal had been experienced by 36 per cent of respondents earning R200 a month or less.

GM Firing 15 Percent of Port Elizabeth Workers

MB011318 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] General Motors is sacking about 15 percent of its Port Elizabeth work force. The already depressed economic situation in the eastern Cape is set to take a turn for the worse following GM's announcement that about 100 workers are about to be fired. Personnel manager George Stegman says the move is the last of its kind before the company's South African interests are taken over by local management. Earlier in the month workers at the Automobile giant's Port Elizabeth factories were on strike over concerns that they hadn't been properly informed of the conditions of the American pullout. Although workers returned to work, the issues haven't been resolved.

Domestic Workers Union Holds Inaugural Meeting

MB011418 Johannebsurg SAPA in English
1414 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Cape Town Dec 1 SAPA — A new union for about 50,000 domestic workers nationwide has been launched. Called the South African Domestic Workers Union, it is an amalgamation of several organisations in major urban centres and is the culmination of nearly two years of talks.

About 500 delegates attended the inaugural congress at the University of the Western Cape [UWC]. They passed resolutions demanding laws to protect domestics, living wages of R200 a month, pensions, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, sick leave and pay, maternity benefits and holiday pay.

The congress closed yesterday with a four-hour indoor rally after permission to hold a rally at the UWC sports stadium was refused. A Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) banner was prominently displayed and the union's first president, Mrs Violet Motlhasedi, told the rally that the union would "stand up against exploitation under the umbrella of COSATU." She said domestic workers were the "most exploited sector and we will have to fight to organise the unorganised. As from today we are openly exposed and must expect pressure and harassment."

Miss Florrie de Villiers, general secretary, said there were more than a million domestic workers to be organised. "For the past 300 years we have carried this land but all this time have not had laws protecting us but are seen as non-people. We represent 50,000 members, but the rest still have to be organised."

Miners Involved in Illegal Strike Dismissed

MB011218 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1212 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 1 SAPA — Ninety-four workers who took part in an illegal strike at the Matla coal mine near Kriel in the eastern Transvaal had been dismissed, the owners, GENCOR [General Mining Union Corporation], said today. Other workers who took part in the strike on November 25 resumed their duties on Saturday and the situation at the mine had returned to normal, according to GENCOR coal division's senior manager, planning and services, Mr J.C.J. van Rensburg.

He said in a statement issued in Johannesburg that all the strikers had received disciplinary hearings "for being absent without permission." Workers were not allowed to work until the hearings were completed on Friday. "A total of 94 workers who had received final warnings previously were dismissed. All the other participants in the strike received final warnings. The strike was in breach of a signed undertaking given to management by the National Union of Mineworkers on participatoin in illegal strikes." The National Union of Mineworkers could not immediately be contacted for comment.

Three Buses Destroyed, Damaged in Firebombings

MB020950 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0941 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, Dec 2, SAPA — Three buses were gutted in a spate of petrol-bomb attacks in Port Elizabeth [PE] townships yesterday, causing damage of R480,000, according to Mr Carl Coetzer, managing director of PE tramways. Damage to six other buses amounted to R20,000 and for the second time this year, but services into the black townships have been withdrawn.

Mr Coetzer said before services were continued, the public would have to indicate "they want and are prepared to support the service without burning buses." He said the latest attacks were the first since the declaration of a state of emergency in July when 10 vehicles were destroyed.

Information Bureau Issues 2 Dec Unrest Report

MB021142 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1138 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 2, SAPA — The Bureau for Information's situation report for the 24 hours to midnight last night.

"At 6.30pm in Mamelodi-West (Pretoria) yesterday, two unknown black persons fired about seven shots at Dr and Mrs F.D. Ribeiro fatally wounding both. Mrs Ribeiro was the sister of Robert Sobukwe. They were shot as they arrived at their home, house 7116, corner of Ribeiro and Chabangu roads. A .45 calibre weapon was used. No arrests were made. Police investigations continue.

"Yesterday, the burned body of a man was discovered by security forces at the dumping site of Kwa Nobuhle (Uitenhage). No arrests have been made.

"In Soweto about 200 black youths attacked a private home with stones. A man was abducted from the house and burned alive by the group. No arrests have yet been made.

"Other unrest-related incidents reported during the abovementioned 24-hours, consisted of isolated petrol bomb attacks on buses and private homes in six different townships causing serious damage. In one incident a black man was arrested."

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

MB020718 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN on Lull in Anti-RSA Campaign

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 29 November in a page 6 editorial says that the "lull in the campaign of hate against South Africa from neighboring countries" is perhaps because they "realise their allegations of South African complicity in the air crash in which President Samora Machel was killed were totally unfounded." The paper also says that "it appeared recently as if South Africa was going to have a crack at Botswana for allowing the ANC to muster there and to use two routes through that country in attacking South Africa, but South Africa appears, at least for the present, to be leaving the matter to diplomatic exchanges." But, "if any serious incidents occur, and the terrorists can be traced back to Botswana, South Africa may be tempted to hit hard."

Indaba Plan Worthy of Study

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 1 December says that "it is doubtful whether the central government is going to accept" the Natal-KwaZulu/Indaba plan for "it does not fit in with the government's own ideas of provincial and regional rule, and it is doubtful whether the plan would dovetail into any constitutional dispensation." The paper points out that the "radical black movements have rejected the plan," some Afrikaner organizations in the Indaba have also rejected the plan, and government supporters and right-wing parties would be "even more vehement in their opposition to it." "The Indaba plan is not the final work on the subject, but it is an interesting one and deserves serious study since it contains some ideas that are pertinent to any discussion of the future."

THE STAR on New Cabinet

"Though Mr Botha's Cabinet has two new members, with a virtual doubling-up of deputies to support them, its composition gives no inkling of any intention to hasten reform," says a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 1 December. "On the contrary, the opportunity of the reshuffle was not used to encourage the belief that the coloured and Indian parliamentary participation will be rewarded by increased involvement at executive level. All signs point instead to a battening down of the hatches as a counter against sanctions storms, and to the mobilisation of white sentiment for a defiant stand against the world." *The Star* believes that if Pretoria "gives a genuine lead, uncomplicated by confusing and contradictory signals," the bulk of the people from all groups would respond with enthusiasm. "The dark cloud over South Africa would begin to lift."

Detentions Cause of Suicides

The same page carries an article by the Detainees' Parents Support Committee in the "Our View" column saying "of a total of 62 known deaths in detention since 1963 at least 29 have been attributed to suicide." "A further startling fact is that about half of these deaths took place within the first week of detention. At least 23 people died within one day of being detained." "Not only would it appear the electorate does not care, but the few who are moved by conscience and compassion to protest and offer succour are hounded, intimidated, threatened and sometimes detained themselves." "The whole process of detention without trial subverts the rule of law and lends itself to abuse. As long as we have a system of detention without trial deaths must be expected."

BUSINESS DAY on Barclays UK Withdrawal

Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 1 December says in a page 4 editorial that Barclays UK's disengagement from SA's economy "will not be as hasty as many expected, mainly because it now holds its former investment in financial rands. These funds, blocked by this rather crude foreign exchange control, cannot flow out of the country until they are matched by funds flowing in, and will make the bank a reluctant partner in SA's economy for many years to come." "Given the volatility of financial markets, it is not inconceivable that the UK bank could find itself tempted to finance the South African government directly by investing government stock. This rather unusual turn of events could result because of the limited avenues open to investors of financial rands." However, the UK bank will, for the present, benefit from the deal it has struck with its South African partner. "It appears then, that sometimes even political expediency can be profitable."

SOWETAN on Ban on Indoor Gatherings

"With the new amendment to the emergency regulations that enables the police to ban indoor gatherings, it is no exaggeration to say that the state of emergency might become a permanent feature of our legislation," says a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 1 December. "Although people tend to get used to draconian pieces of legislation we are outraged by this new ban." "It would seem that the ban on indoor meetings is aimed at the outcrop of street committees in various black townships. Our view is it is better for people in their areas to meet and thrash out their problems rather than have faceless groups decide on projects and sometimes political campaigns thought out by few."

Indaba Proposal Retains Group Rights

On the same page the "Focus" column says that the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba "is over and there are no surprises. Group areas will go but group rights will stay. If you don't want to be a person of African, Afrikaans, Asian or English background you can belong to a 'South African' group." The column says that "if group rights are a sop to insecure minorities, the retention of existing traditional authorities in KwaZulu, as part of the system of local government, is a sop to potential anxiety among chiefs in the face of a disbanded KwaZulu legislative Assembly." "A rather small carrot is held out to the central government in the proposal that a governor of Natal be appointed by the State President on the advice of the provincial legislature."

THE NAMIBIAN on Press Freedom

The page 15 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 28 November says that it hopes interim government's plans to institute an own publications control board for Namibia "will not be used as an instrument to silence a portion of the press which is critical of the present constitutional dispensation in this country." "We must once again remind the interim government Cabinet that several of their members agreed to abide by the ruling of the courts on human rights issues, and in the event of them creating a publications control board for Namibia, to base this board on the solid foundations of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The press is usually regarded as a 'watchdog' and its role has deeper meaning in a country where the government of the day has been appointed and has no mandate from the people it claims to represent."

Pro-435 Initiative Commendable

Gwen Lister says in her "Political Perspective" column on page 16 that "strange things are happening in 'white' politics in Namibia," referring to the formation of a pro-435 initiative "known as Namibia Peace Plan 435 (NPP435)," which announced its formation in Windhoek this week. "Veteran politician Bryan O'Linn will chair the movement, with co-chairs Mr Peter Koep and Professor Christo Lombard. It is a commendable initiative, for it is in the 'white' community where anti-435 propaganda is strongest, and where the settlement plans, as Mr Peter Koep quite rightly said, is regarded as a 'SWAPO-document.'" Lister hopes that the NPP 435 "will not try to remain an 'exclusive' contact group."

RAPPORT: Voters Doubt PFP Potential

On page 27 of Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 30 November Anne-Marie Mischke says the "alleged division between the left and right wing of the PFP" is not the PFP's greatest problem. Mischke believes that the PFP's problem is that "for years it has never gone near the ruling bench. Fair or not, voters begin to doubt the capabilities of the party... because it is making no progress." A dilemma which it can no longer avoid is: "How must a mixed a party function within a parliamentary system which still excludes blacks? Is the ideal of trying to gain 52 seats reconcilable with the aim of winning credibility in the eyes of other population groups?" Mischke points out that the PFP is now a mixed party and "even though it is not flooded by colored members, there are enough coloreds in the party for the party to consider the points of view. More important is the argument that if the PFP succeeds in changing the present government system, it will need great colored support to come into power and to also stay in power. Therefore it should take care about its credibility among colored people."

BEELD Skeptical of Indaba Proposal

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 1 December refers to the Indaba plan saying that "it would be asking too much to find a solution within 8 months for a problem which South Africa has been saddled with for several hundred years." "It appears that the consensus only existed in the imagination of a group of participants." *Beeld* says that "as soon as something like this gets the stamp of party politics then one must know that the case is halfway lost. If political reporters of the English press describe the success of the conference as a defeat for the government, and if PFP leader Colin Eglin becomes euphoric and gloats that the government has no other choice but to approve the proposed constitution, then one should know that something has gone wrong with the plans."

ZAMBIA

Zimbabwe's Banana Arrives for Private Visit

MB011233 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Zimbabwean President Comrade Canaan Banana has arrived in Lusaka for a 2-day private visit to Zambia. President Banana was met on arrival by Comrade President Dr Kaunda, Party Secretary General Comrade Grey Zulu, Prime Minister Comrade Kebby Musokotwane, the secretary of state for defense and security, Mrade Alex Shapi, and party and government officials. Comrade Banana is making his first visit to Zambia since Zimbabwe attained her independence in April 1980. He is expected to visit the Copper Belt and other tourist attractions during his short visit.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Heads Delegation to Trade Conference

MB020831 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has left for the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to attend the heads of state and government summit of the Preferential Trade Area. Comrade Mugabe was accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende; the deputy minister of transport, Comrade Amina Hughes; and senior government officials. [passage omitted]